

'15 Israelis and SLA men killed'

BEIRUT (R) — Resistance men said they stormed three pro-Israeli "South Lebanon Army" (SLA) positions in South Lebanon on Tuesday, killing 15 Israeli soldiers and SLA militiamen. In a handwritten statement, distributed to news agencies, the "Islamic Resistance" said the three positions attacked were in the northeast part of Israel's self-declared "security zone" in South Lebanon. The Islamic Resistance is believed to be made up of fundamentalist groups including the pro-Iranian Shi'ite Hizbollah (Party of God) who have vowed to keep up attacks against the Israelis and their proxy army. The statement said one of the 50 attackers was killed in the operation and six others were wounded. It said they captured an armoured personnel carrier. In Metulla, security sources said four members of the SLA were killed and five were wounded when guerrillas attacked an SLA position on Tuesday.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية مستقلة عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية "الرأي"

Assad: Syria will not change policy

DAMASCUS (R) — President Hafez Al Assad said Tuesday current pressures on Syria would fall and Damascus would stick to its present policies, the Syrian Arab News Agency (SANA) reported. "Syria will not depart from its anti-imperialist, Zionist policy which rejects any kind of imperialist hegemony in the region and any form of capitulation before Israel," he told visiting Bulgarian First Vice-President Petar Tanchev. "Current pressures on Syria will only end with failure... because Syria with its armed forces, masses and socialist friends, notably the Soviet Union, is capable of holding firm in the face of pressures and threats, and of causing defeat to such designs," Mr. Assad said. Syria was the subject of diplomatic and economic sanctions by Britain, America and West Germany last month over alleged links with terrorism which Damascus has denied. SANA said Mr. Tanchev, who ended a three-day visit on Tuesday, conveyed a message from Bulgarian President Todor Zhivkov declaring his country's solidarity with Syria. He also invited Mr. Assad to visit Bulgaria on a date to be fixed.

Volume 11 Number 3339

AMMAN, WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 3, 1986, RABIA AL THANI 2, 1408

Price: Jordan 100 fils; Syria 1 pound; Lebanon 1 pound; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams; Great Britain 25 pence

Prince Hassan condoles Ajlouni family

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan on Tuesday paid a visit to the Ajlouni family in Sarih, Irbid, and extended his condolences on the death of Mohammad Sa'id Ajlouni.

Panel meets on development programme

AMMAN (J.T.) — Deputy Prime Minister Abdul Wahab Al Majali chaired a meeting at the Ministry of Occupied Territories Affairs on Tuesday to discuss the implementation of the five-year development programme for the occupied territories. The meeting was attended by Minister of Occupied Territories Affairs Marwan Daud, Minister of Industry and Trade Rajai Muasher, Finance Minister Hanna Odeh, Planning Minister Taha Kanaan and the under-secretary of the Ministry of Occupied Territories Affairs. They all form a committee entrusted with carrying out the programme.

Armitage leaves

AMMAN (Petra) — U.S. Assistant Secretary of Defence Richard Armitage left Amman Tuesday at the end of a four-day official visit to Jordan during which he was received in audience by His Majesty King Hussein and held talks with senior officials. Mr. Armitage was seen off at the airport by Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief General Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker, Chief of Staff Lieutenant-General Fathi Abu Taleb and senior army officers as well as U.S. Ambassador to Jordan Paul Bocker.

Army alerted in New Delhi

NEW DELHI (R) — Authorities on Tuesday alerted the army for riot duty in the Indian capital as rampaging mobs sacked Sikh homes and shops, and more than 1,500 were arrested here in an angry backlash to the worst-ever massacre by Sikh separatists. Delhi police used tear gas, made baton charges and fired warning shots to contain the protesters, many waving the "trishul" (trident) weapon of militant Hindus, angered by the killing of 24 bus passengers in Punjab on Sunday (See story on page 8).

Israeli court rules against 'convert' stamp

TEL AVIV (AP) — The Israeli supreme court, ruling Tuesday in the case of an American immigrant, overturned a government decision to stamp the word "convert" on her identification card. The three-judge panel decided in favour of Shoshana Miller, who was converted to Judaism by a reform rabbi in Colorado Springs, in January 1982. Ms. Miller, 43, had appealed the interior ministry's decision to officially identify her as a convert after it lost a court suit to deny her citizenship under the "law of return."

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Jordan ready to attend urgent Arab meeting on Amal-Palestinian conflict

King Fahd calls for immediate end to fighting

By a Jordan Times Staff Writer with agency dispatches

AMMAN — Jordan has informed the Arab League General Secretariat that it would attend an emergency meeting of Arab foreign ministers to discuss fighting between Palestinians and Lebanese militiamen.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, said that the Foreign Ministry expressed readiness to join the Arab League to join the conference whenever the league's general secretariat convenes it.

The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) called for the emergency meeting in an attempt to halt the fighting around Palestinian camps in Beirut and South Lebanon.

More than 400 people have been killed and about 1,000 wounded in fighting over the last nine days.

More than 1,300 have been killed and some 4,500 wounded since the Shi'ite Amal militia moved against the Palestinians in May, 1985.

King Fahd of Saudi Arabia called on all Lebanese forces Tuesday to intervene immediately to "disarm the aggressors" and protect the besieged Palestinian camps in Lebanon.

The statement by King Fahd,

carried by the Saudi Press Agency, did not directly name Amal.

Urging both sides to lay down their arms, King Fahd exhorted "all national forces and authorities in Lebanon to work immediately for a disengagement and to protect the camps and disarm the aggressors."

He urged all Arab countries to make the utmost effort to achieve this "so as to safeguard the Palestinian people and defend their case."

The king was quoted as saying: "There is no doubt that the sole party benefitting from this bloody conflict is the common enemy, Israel."

King Fahd said that the assaults on the Palestinians in Lebanon "is a deep wound for the Arab and Muslim nations combined."

PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat was quoted by Saudi Arabia's Al Sharq Al Awsat newspaper as stressing that his forces were not interested in establishing a

military base in Lebanon. He said the fighters were deterring a "two-year-old plot by Amal to evict the Palestinians from the refugee camps to outside the borders."

He reiterated his appeals to the Arab World to save the Palestinians in the camps "from liquidation," estimating the number of refugees at a half-million.

"The Palestinians are not thinking at all of having a military base in Lebanon," Mr. Arafat said in the interview.

"But the PLO will not permit any attack on any Palestinian anywhere."

He also said the PLO "has no desire to broaden the conflict with Amal, but we are capable of hitting all conspiracies that are aimed at liquidating the Palestinian people."

Mr. Arafat appeared to have retreated from his reported call for an emergency Arab summit to discuss the crisis.

He said inter-Arab contacts at present were aimed at convening that summit on the fringes of the conference of Islamic heads of state due to start in Kuwait Jan. 30.

He also told Al Sharq Al Awsat in a phone interview from Baghdad that he would discuss the situation with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, but gave no date for a meeting.

Iraq vows forceful retaliation for any attack on Gulf states

NICOSIA (AP) — Iraq's air force commander warned Tuesday that Iraq, which has maintained air superiority in the Gulf war, would respond forcefully to any Iranian attack on an Arab country on the pretext that the country was aiding Iraq's war effort, the Iraqi News Agency (INA) reported.

The agency, monitored in Nicosia, quoted Air Marshal Hameed Shaaban as saying an attack against any Gulf country would be considered an aggression against Iraq, and would be answered "with the strength that the Iraqis know better than any one else."

INA said Marshal Shaaban was commenting on Iranian charges that Gulf countries had provided facilities to Iraqi warplanes which

bombed Iran's oil export island of Larak in the Strait of Hormuz Nov. 25.

Iraq's official Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA), also monitored in Nicosia, quoted "informed military sources" as saying Iraqi jets have been "frequently using" Kuwaiti air space during attacks on Iranian economic installations and oil tankers in the Gulf.

"Iraqi jets do not need refuelling or stopping over in an air strip or any place" during bombing raids against Iran, the Iraqi news agency quoted Marshal Shaaban as saying.

"The raids deep inside Iran point to Iraq's capability to reach the farthest point in Iraq. The

Iranian leaders will discover this by themselves in the future," he was quoted as saying.

The Iraqi air force outnumbered Iran's air power by six-to-one and has several French-made Super Etendard fighter-bombers that are used in attacks against tankers carrying Iranian oil in the Gulf.

In what was considered their longest mission since the outbreak of the war, Iraqi jets flew more than 1,400 kilometres to bomb makeshift oil loading facilities on Larak Island last week.

The Iraqi jets severely damaged three of five large oil tankers used for storing or shuttling crude from the main oil export terminal island of Kharg, in the Gulf's northeastern reaches.

Reagan seeks special investigator and names Carlucci NSC head

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — President Ronald Reagan announced Tuesday that he was seeking the appointment of a special independent investigator to look into the Iran arms scandal that is shaking his administration.

Mr. Reagan said in a televised address that U.S. Attorney General Edwin Meese had advised him there were reasonable grounds to seek an independent investigation of the affair, in which money for arms was diverted to rebels in Nicaragua.

"I immediately urged him to apply to the court here in Washington for an independent counsel," Mr. Reagan said.

He also announced the appointment of Frank Carlucci, a former Defence Department and Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) official, as his new national security adviser to replace Vice Admiral John Poindexter, who resigned last week in the growing scandal.

"Mr. Carlucci has a depth of experience in foreign affairs, defence and intelligence matters that uniquely qualify him..." the president said.

Mr. Reagan repeated that he would do his utmost to provide all the facts from the widening probe into the Iranian-contras connection.

"If illegal acts were undertaken, those who did so will be brought to justice," Mr. Reagan said.

Mr. Meese later told a news conference that he would file an

application with the court of appeals in Washington seeking the appointment of an independent counsel. Mr. Meese said he could not discuss the details that prompted the president's decision or reveal the identities of anyone involved in the covert scheme.

A special counsel, known as a "special prosecutor" during the Watergate scandal that brought down President Richard Nixon in 1974, is an independent investigator named by a three-judge court in Washington to conduct inquiries into allegations of wrongdoing by high government officials.

Mr. Reagan also backed calls for a congressional investigation by a single special committee to look into the affair. A similar committee was appointed to investigate the Watergate scandal.

He said such an approach, already endorsed by leaders of both Republicans and Democrats in the senate, would prevent a number of overlapping investigations from bogging down congress.

"I urge congress to consider a mechanism to consolidate its inquiry. I'll support the idea," said Mr. Reagan, whose Republican Party lost control of the senate in last month's congressional elections.

Mr. Reagan said that once all the facts of the Iran arms deal were known, the last judgement would rest with the American people.

Recent public opinion polls

show that Mr. Reagan — one of the most popular U.S. presidents — has lost considerable popularity, with a majority of Americans saying that he had about the affair and the White House was trying to cover up embarrassing details.

Once the facts are out, Mr. Reagan said, "the American people will be the final arbiters of this controversy. You will have all the facts and you will be able to decide for yourselves."

Meanwhile, it was disclosed that Mr. Reagan conferred twice recently with Mr. Nixon, whose problems with the Watergate cover-up led to his resignation in 1974.

A Nixon spokesman, John Taylor, confirmed the calls but declined to discuss the content of the conversations.

Tuesday morning, Mr. Reagan met at the White House with top Republican congressional leaders.

In the hours preceding Mr. Reagan's speech, Senator Richard Lugar, an ally of the president and outgoing chairman of the Senate

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Documents prove U.S. arms shipments to Iran since 1980; Bilikonshe tried to pay hostage ransom; U.S. ambassador denies discussing arms or hostages; Soviet media attack Iran, page 2

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KING MEETS SOVIET COMMANDER: His Majesty King Hussein confers at the Royal Court on Tuesday with the commander of the Soviet air defences, General Yuri Tochenovok (third from left), who has been on a week-long visit to Jordan. The audience was attended by Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief General Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker (right) and Soviet Ambassador to Jordan Alexander Zinichuk (left).

Amal evicts Palestinian families from homes near Beirut camps

12 children die in besieged Rashidiyeh

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Scores of Palestinian civilians were forced out of their homes at gunpoint near two embattled Beirut refugee camps Monday night and early Tuesday, witnesses said.

The witnesses, quoted by Reuters, said refugees who live just outside Bourj Al Barajneh and Shatila camps in the southern suburbs were forced by Shi'ite Muslim Amal militiamen to leave their homes.

"They came to our houses and threatened us into leaving," said a Palestinian woman who had arrived at the small Mar Elias refugee settlement, about three kilometres to the west.

Asked to comment, an Amal source told Reuters: "We are not responsible... we protect the Palestinian civilians and our fighters have strict orders to help the civilians."

In Vienna, United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA)

Commissioner-General Giorgio Giacomelli issued an appeal to all parties in Lebanon to facilitate UNRWA's task of aiding suffering civilian refugees.

"Appeal to all concerned to try to avoid causing unnecessary suffering to the refugees, particularly the women and children who are already bearing such a heavy burden," he said.

One camp resident said some 45 families were forced to quit their homes early Tuesday when Amal militiamen surrounded them and fired automatic rifles into the air.

Meanwhile, Amal men and Palestinian fighters continued battles with tanks, mortars and armour-piercing weapons in Beirut and South Lebanon on Tuesday. Police said 28 people were killed and 55 wounded.

They said 15 Palestinians, including 12 children, have died due to the lack of medicines and proper medical care in South Lebanon's refugee camp of

Rashidiyeh, besieged by Amal militiamen since Oct. 1.

Amal forces hammered Shatila and Bourj Al Barajneh with tank fire and the Palestinians responded with mortar and 106-mm guns with armour-piercing shells, police reported.

Police said 21 people were killed and 39 wounded in overnight clashes in the two battered camps and the surrounding Shi'ite slums in south Beirut.

Another seven people were killed and 16 wounded in battles around the strategic town of Maghdousheh overlooking Palestinian refugee camps in Sidon, South Lebanon's provincial capital, police reported.

That raised the overall toll from nine days of fighting in Beirut and the south to 329 killed and 651 wounded. Palestinians burst out of

(Continued on page 3)

U.S.-Israeli rift grows over contra connection

TEL AVIV (AP) — Israel's leaders have flatly denied fresh assertions that Israel siphoned funds from Iranian arms deals to Nicaragua rebels amid signs of a growing rift with the United States.

The denials from the top three government officials put Israel in apparent conflict with President Ronald Reagan, who said a third country channelled money to the contras from inflated prices charged to Iran.

U.S. officials were quoted in other newspapers as saying Mr. Reagan was referring to Israel, which has admitted secretly shipping U.S. arms to Iran but has denied handling the payments.

Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin told parliament during a 45-minute debate: "The Israeli government doesn't maintain contact or ties or supply weapons from here to the rebels in Nicaragua."

The United States Justice Ministry has informally told Israel it would seek to question some Israelis as part of a U.S. inquiry into the Iranian arms deal, Israeli officials told AP.

For its part, Israel is seeking clarifications from Washington on Mr. Reagan's remarks published in Time magazine, an Israeli legislator told AP.

Mr. Reagan told the magazine: "Another country was facilitating those sales of weapons systems" to the contras. U.S. officials were quoted in other newspapers as saying Mr. Reagan was referring to Israel.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir said on Israeli Radio that Mr. Reagan's statement does not mean Israel should change its declaration that it has had nothing to do with the contras "because that is the truth."

Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said he was "shocked" by the allegation of Israeli involvement in transferring funds to the contras.

Egypt waiting for Arafat visit

CAIRO (R) — President Hosni Mubarak said Tuesday Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat was expected in Egypt soon for talks on Middle East peace moves and warned of difficulties if Arab-Israeli negotiations were further delayed.

"We are waiting for PLO (Palestine Liberation Organisation) Chairman Yasser Arafat to come here at any time to discuss what will be next, because if we cannot keep the momentum of the peace process going on, we lose everything," he said.

Pressed by reporters to specify a date for Mr. Arafat's visit, Mr. Mubarak said: "At any time. He comes here when he likes. He may come soon."

Mr. Mubarak said Egypt, in efforts to convene an international Middle East peace conference, was still trying to resolve the issue of Palestinian representation in such a forum.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir has rejected the proposed conference, saying Israel wanted direct talks with the Arabs.

"I hope the year 1987 will be

the year for negotiations. The more we delay negotiations, the more things will be much more difficult and hard to settle," Mr. Mubarak said.

Mr. Mubarak and His Majesty King Hussein had two days of talks here last week after which they said an international peace conference was the only path to a settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

On Washington's secret arms deals with Iran, Mr. Mubarak urged the United States to work fast to restore its credibility in the Middle East.

"It is quite important that some action be taken. I cannot tell you what kind of action. But the United States knows perfectly well how to maintain its credibility in this area."

Mr. Mubarak and King Hussein last week criticised Washington for the deals, saying they posed a threat to the Arab World's security.

On another front, Mr. Mubarak said he would never accept warnings from Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir or

anyone else.

But the president told reporters he doubts an Israeli newspaper report that Mr. Shamir has sent him a letter warning him that his statements could damage relations.

Mr. Mubarak replied to a question on a report two days ago in the Israeli newspaper Maariv. It said Mr. Shamir had sent the Egyptian leader a letter taking exception to Mr. Mubarak's public complaints about Jewish settlements in occupied lands and warning that such statements are prejudicial to bilateral relations.

"I am not a man to accept warnings from Shamir or anybody else," Mr. Mubarak replied, without explicitly confirming or denying that he had received a letter from the Israeli premier.

"In my speech to parliament, I stated that what Shamir said (about settlements) was not encouraging for future progress in the peace process," Mr. Mubarak said.

"If the answer from Shamir is a warning, and I doubt it is a warning, I will never accept such words."

Soviets hint at end to moratorium

MOSCOW (R) — Senior Soviet officials accused the United States on Tuesday of stalling in talks on nuclear weapon testing and indicated Moscow might resume its own tests, suspended for almost 18 months, in the new year.

First Deputy Foreign Minister Yuri Vorontsov told a Moscow news conference a decision on whether to end the Soviet moratorium on underground blasts depended on "the behaviour of the American administration between now and the end of the year."

Professor Andranik Petrosyants said the U.S. delegation at Geneva, where he heads the Moscow team in talks on testing, was using "all sorts of pretexts" to avoid concrete discussions on preparing a total test-ban treaty.

Mr. Vorontsov said the U.S. had staged 23 announced and unannounced tests since August 1985 when Moscow first declared a moratorium, since extended four

times, and called on Washington to join in.

"It is well-established that the latest series of tests is intended to produce a third generation of nuclear weaponry, and has nothing to do with maintaining present weapons in a state of readiness as the U.S. claims," he said.

"It is quite obvious the American administration is engaged in a clear effort to establish military superiority over the Soviet Union, through the tests and the strategic defence initiative (SDI) programme."

Mr. Vorontsov said SDI, the "Star Wars" space-based system Moscow argues is effectively a "new weapon of aggression," was closely linked to the U.S. test programme.

"In these conditions, it would put the security of the Soviet Union and its allies in danger to continue our moratorium indefinitely," he declared.

Soviet leader Mikhail

Gorbachev, who has put his personal authority behind the drive for a total test ban, said in August he was extending the moratorium until Jan. 1 to give President Ronald Reagan time to rethink his insistence on continued testing.

In Geneva, the United States and the Soviet Union clamped a news blackout on Tuesday on their special arms talks at which superpower negotiators will try to narrow differences on ways to control nuclear and space weapons.

"We have agreed a complete news blackout until the talks end on Friday," U.S. arms delegation spokesman Terry Shroeder told reporters when the meeting started Tuesday morning.

The session is limited to the top three negotiators on each side and their deputies. They will meet in separate groups to discuss long-range nuclear missiles, medium-range missiles and space arms.

Fadlallah accuses Reagan of sabotaging hostages' release

BEIRUT (AP) — Lebanon's most influential Shi'ite Muslim cleric accused President Ronald Reagan's administration Tuesday of sabotaging the release of 17 convicted bombers in Kuwait that would have led to American hostages in Lebanon being freed.

Sheikh Mohammad Hussein Fadlallah said he personally made efforts to secure the release of one of the Americans, Terry Anderson, chief Middle East correspondent of the Associated Press.

Anderson was kidnapped in Muslim west Beirut on March 16, 1985, a day after he interviewed Fadlallah.

The cleric, 54, is spiritual guide of pro-Iranian Shi'ite militants of Hezbollah, or Party of God, and Islamic Jihad, or Islamic holy war, which holds Anderson, another American and several Frenchmen.

Fadlallah spoke to reporters during a meeting at his west Beirut home with two American Muslim envoys seeking the release of 17 foreigners missing in Lebanon.

"We had accurate information that Kuwait was in the process of releasing the prisoners it holds, but the United States pressured it not to do so," Fadlallah said.

He did not elaborate. However, Washington has stressed it will not negotiate with extremists. Kuwait has repeatedly declared it will not free the convicted bombers.

Islamic Jihad has said it will free its American captives if Kuwait releases the 17 jailed in the Gulf emirate for bombing the U.S. and French embassies there in December, 1983.

The underground group claims it holds Anderson, 39; Thomas Sutherland, 55, acting dean of agriculture at the American University of Beirut and three French hostages.

It claimed it has killed one of the Frenchmen, researcher Michel Saurat, and one of the Americans it kidnapped, diplomat William Buckley. However, no bodies have been produced.

Fadlallah was flanked as he spoke by Mohammad Mehdi, secretary-general of the New York-based National Council for Islamic Affairs, and his deputy, Dale Shaheen.

The two emissaries arrived in Beirut Sunday, saying they hope to return with at least one freed hostage before Christmas.

Sheikh Mohammad Shamseddin, vice chairman of the higher Shi'ite council, the sect's supreme religious authority, pledged support Monday for the envoy's mission.

Mr. Mehdi and Mr. Shaheen met Monday evening with the wives of American hostages Frank Reed, Joseph Cicippio and Sutherland at the American University.

Reed and Cicippio are believed held by another Shi'ite faction, the Revolutionary Justice Organisation.

The 20-minute, closed-door meeting with Fadlallah was held at his house in the Bir Al Abed district after talking to reporters.

I have tried all avenues to free the hostages, especially the two remaining Americans (with Islamic Jihad), because one of them, the journalist Anderson, was my friend and had made more than one interview with me," Fadlallah said.

"His abduction was a surprise and great shock to me. There was a personal consideration in seeking his release in addition to the ideological concept of rejecting the abduction as a whole," Fadlallah added.

"I employed private methods in attempting to win his release, but I couldn't achieve anything," he said. "Anyway, I'm still trying."

He said he also tried "more than any one else" to win the release of French and other foreign hostages held in Lebanon.

Fadlallah said the "issue of the American hostages (Anderson and Sutherland) is linked to the prisoners in Kuwait, irrespective

of whether their imprisonment is right or wrong.

"I believe that the United States was capable of solving the hostages question by asking Kuwait, or another party to pressure Kuwait, to release the prisoners there," Fadlallah said.

But he charged that the Reagan administration has deliberately transformed the hostage issue into a "political card to bring pressure to bear on some parties and try to restore relations with others."

That was an apparent reference to a Western campaign against Syria for alleged involvement in terrorist attacks in Europe and the secret U.S. arms sales to Iran.

"That complicated the issue," Fadlallah said. "Therefore I feel there are great difficulties now."

"The complicated political climate now makes me say, regrettably, that I cannot offer anything (to help)," Fadlallah said.

Mr. Mehdi told a news conference after the meeting with Fadlallah that "he gave us his advice, his support and he promised to do all he can. But he assured us that what he can do is limited."

Mr. Mehdi said the meetings he and Mr. Shaheen were holding in Beirut will "gradually propel the motion towards reaching the hostage-holders and eventually helping the release of the hostages."

Texas billionaire tried to pay hostage ransoms

WASHINGTON (R) — Texas billionaire Ross Perot said Tuesday he made millions of dollars available to the U.S. government over several years for ransom attempts to free American hostages.

Perot confirmed he put up \$2 million earlier this year on the request of Marine Lt.-Col. Oliver North, then a staff member of the White House National Security Council (NSC), to bankroll a vain attempt to buy freedom for U.S. hostages held by pro-Iranian fundamentalists in Lebanon.

"It didn't work," Perot said in a television interview. "The people who were supposed to produce, didn't."

The Washington Post, quoting unidentified sources, said that on May 23 Col. North asked Perot to put \$2 million in the Credit Suisse Bank of Zurich as part of a secret transaction to win the release of American hostages in Lebanon.

Before the money was deposited, however, Col. North asked Perot to send it by courier to Cyprus to be exchanged for five hostages in an offshore ship-to-ship transaction which failed.

"North didn't tell me what happened — I didn't try to pin him down," Perot said.

Perot said he had made money available to the government since 1969 on the understanding that it was U.S. policy not to use official funds for such operations.

Asked whether he questioned Col. North's authority to carry out the ransom plan, Perot replied: "My sense has always been that the people who do this type of thing in government are always meticulous in getting approval."

He also confirmed the Post report that in an attempt to ransom CIA Beirut station chief William Buckley, kidnapped in March 1984, Perot made \$2 million available to Col. North but negotiations for Buckley's freedom failed and he was later killed.

Perot said he has been involved in various quasi-official operations for the government since 1969. In that year, he was used by the Richard Nixon administration in an effort to get better treatment for American prisoners of war in Vietnam.

He has been consulted by succeeding administrations about some 2,400 Americans still listed as missing in action in Indochina.

In 1979, Perot hired a group of ex-commandos who rescued two employees of his Electronics Data Systems firm from an Iranian prison, an operation recounted in the best-selling book *On Wings of Eagles*.

In November and December 1979, when the Iranians took 52 American hostages and held them for 444 days, he worked with the White House to "gather information on the ground."

UAE to continue efforts for Gulf peace

ABU DHABI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — Leaders of the United Arab Emirates stressed Tuesday they will maintain efforts to mediate an end to the six-year-old Gulf war and urged Iran and Iraq to make peace.

The appeals came as the UAE's seven sheikdoms celebrated their 15th National Day Tuesday amid concern in the Gulf over an air raid on the emirate's Abu al Bakrosh offshore oilfield on Nov. 25.

The raid, by unidentified warplanes believed to be Iranian, has heightened alarm that the war may spread to neutral Arab countries in the region.

The UAE, formed in 1971, is made up of a federation of the former trilateral states of Abu Dhabi, Dubai, Sharjah, Ras Al Khaimah, Ajman, Fujairah and Um Al Quwain.

Senior UAE officials, in speeches marking National Day, underscored their interest in a negotiated settlement to the war, but made no reference to the Abu Al Bakrosh attack.

Sheikh Saqr Ibn Mohammad Al Qassbi, a UAE Supreme Council member and ruler of Ras Al Khaimah, urged Iraq and Iran to seek arbitration through Islamic teachings.

"The UAE has exerted every possible effort to stop the war. Iraq responded and we hope Iraq will do the same," he said.

Another council member, Sheikh Hamad Ibn Mohammad Al Sharqi, ruler of Fujairah, highlighted the UAE's efforts to achieve a settlement, saying: "We must maintain optimism to maintain the momentum of our efforts toward a peace settlement."

National Day was celebrated with donations to the needy, flower parades and pardoning of criminals.

But the festive air belied intensive contacts over how to contain the Gulf war and the growing menace to the rest of the region.

Eight oilmen were killed and 24 wounded in the raid on an Abu Al Bakrosh production platform.

Seven other men are still missing. It was the most serious attack on a neutral country's oil installations since the war erupted.

Oil executives said Abu Al Bakrosh operations have been shut down since the attack and were not expected to resume for some time. The field normally produces about 60,000 barrels of oil a day.

UAE President Sheikh Zayed Ibn Sultan Al Nahyan took time off from Tuesday's celebrations to meet Bahrain's Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohammad Ibn Mubarak to discuss the "situation in the region in light of recent developments."

Official sources said Sheikh Mohammad delivered a message from the Emir of Bahrain Sheikh Isa Ibn Salman Al Khalifa dealing mainly with the Abu Al Bakrosh raid.

Resistance documents show Israel shipped arms to Iran since 1980

WASHINGTON (R) — Iran has been buying large quantities of U.S.-made arms from Israeli intermediaries since 1980 and weapons were delivered from the United States and South Africa at least as early as 1984, the main Iranian resistance movement has said.

The People's Mujahadeen released photocopies of Iranian secret documents and airport telegrams at a Washington news conference as evidence of its charges of longstanding Israeli supplies to the Islamic state.

"What we have obtained so far clearly show that (Ayatollah Ruhollah) Khomeini-Israeli arms deals existed in 1980 and have continued since," said Mujahadeen representative Ali Safavi.

The revelation of U.S. arms sales to Iran has plunged Washington into political crisis. The Reagan administration says it sent only a limited amount of defensive weapons as part of a bid to improve U.S.-Iranian relations and help free American hostages in Lebanon.

The Washington Post said Monday the United States tacitly supported Israeli shipments to Tehran and began sending its own supplies early this year because Israeli intermediaries had sent obsolete missile parts that were rejected by Iran.

The People's Mujahadeen has its headquarters in Paris and a North American office in Washington. It says it maintains a sizeable guerrilla organization within Iran.

The Mujahadeen said intelligence it had gathered inside Iran showed that military supplies were transferred regularly at Frankfurt airport in West Germany to Iran Air aircraft from planes of the Israeli airline El Al.

The U.S.-owned cargo company Flying Tigers and South African Airlines also transferred arms at Frankfurt, according to the Mujahadeen statement, which

was accompanied by photographs of airplane tails with U.S. and Israeli markings and aircraft serial numbers.

The Mujahadeen documents also appeared to confirm reports that Israeli arms broker Jacob Nimrodi played a key role in the transfer of weapons.

Among the documents was an eight-page photostat of what appeared to be a contract between Nimrodi and the Iranian Ministry of Logistics for Arms worth \$134.8 million, dated July 24, 1981.

Safavi did not allege U.S. government involvement in the supply of arms but said Iran operated an extensive arms acquisition network inside the United States.

His statement said El Al aircraft often flew arms from the United States to Frankfurt where they were transferred immediately to Iranian aircraft.

The Mujahadeen statement said Iran Air registered all its cargos as "day-old chicks," though the address was usually the Defence Ministry's logistics section.

The resistance group gave an example shipments that were transferred at Frankfurt in April 1984.

On Wednesday April 18, an Iran Air Boeing 747 was loaded from an El Al plane, registration 4x-EAA, Flight 842, and from a South African Airways Boeing 747 cargo plane parked alongside, it said.

Two days later a Flying Tigers plane transferred cargo to another Iran Air 747 shortly after it took on a shipment from an El Al 767, it said.

The documents showed what were said to be photographs of the operation with registration visible on the aircraft tails.

The documents also contained alleged photocopies of top secret communications inside the Iranian administration which

brought about a decision to accept arms from Israel in 1981 at a time when Tehran was desperate for supplies to fend off an Iraqi offensive.

A November 1980 memo from the logistics section gave orders to "efface all such signs and markings from the weapons and other articles," according to a translation alongside a photostat.

A photocopy of a telex message showed British Midland Airways requesting landing permission from Tehran airport to operate a "cargo charter flight" from Tel Aviv to Tehran on June 4, 1981.

Another photocopy showed a July 24, 1981, Israeli entry stamp in a passport that the Mujahadeen said belonged to Sadegh Tabatabai, son-in-law of Khomeini.

The purported contract with Nimrodi, written in English, covered shipment of shells, hawk and lance missiles and other equipment.

Nimrodi's organization was identified as International Despatchment Equipment (IDE), limited of Tel Aviv.

Article four of the contract said the seller was required to provide an export licence from the Department of Defence of Israel.

The Mujahadeen said this "indicates that the Khomeini regime was fully aware that it was directly dealing with the government of Israel."

Iran has denied buying any arms from Israel and Khomeini said that no Israeli planes would have been allowed into Iranian air space.

Safavi also ridiculed Mr. Reagan's argument that Washington was seeking to establish a dialogue with moderates in Iran.

"We are at a loss to identify a moderate (there)," he said.

All U.S. arms shipments were coordinated by Iranian agencies which reported to Khomeini, he said.

U.N. closing down relief operations in Sudan

KHARTOUM (AP) — The United Nations is closing down its emergency famine relief apparatus in Sudan, whose director was expelled from the country in October, a U.N. official said Tuesday.

Shah Wali, the new special representative in Khartoum of U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar, said future U.N. relief will be channelled through specialised agencies like UNICEF and the World Health Organisation.

In a statement issued by his office, Mr. Wali announced that the U.N. Emergency Operation in Sudan (UNEOS) will be dismantled at the end of this month but gave no reasons for the action.

Sudanese authorities expelled UNEOS Director Winston Prattley last month.

Soviet papers attack Iran for arms deal with U.S.

MOSCOW (AP) — The Communist Party daily Pravda and the government newspaper Izvestia have criticised Iran for funneling weapons to Afghan rebels and money to Nicaraguan contras in its arms deal with Washington.

Tuesday's edition of Pravda carried a commentary by political observer Vitaly Korotkov in which he struck out at the U.S. administration's recent disclosure that it sold small arms to the Tehran government.

"Part of the weaponry was designated for secret transfer to Dushman (rebel) bands in Afghanistan," the party organ reported. "And finally, the money received from the arms trade was sent to Somocista outposts to fan the flames of the undeclared war in Central America."

The Soviet Union currently has about 110,000 troops in Afghanistan helping the government of Najibullah put

down widespread insurrection.

Following Mr. Reagan's disclosure two weeks ago of the arms sales arranged with Tehran, there have been reports that part of the proceeds were covertly channeled to the

counterrevolutionaries fighting the leftist government in Nicaragua, which is closely allied with the Kremlin.

On Monday night, Izvestia declared that Iran would be held fully accountable for "the bloody outrages" committed by Afghan rebels with weapons supplied by Tehran.

The newspaper said interrogation of a captured rebel disclosed that the weapons his group was using in attacks on the Soviet-backed government forces were supplied by Iran.

"That Iran is involved in crude interference in the internal affairs of Afghanistan is supported by other well-known facts," Izvestia claimed.

TV & RADIO

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 773111-19

PROGRAMME ONE

15:30 Koran
15:55 Cartoons
16:10 Children's programme
16:35 Scientific programme
17:00 Thrill Maker Sports
17:30 A tale of two cities
18:30 Arabic series
19:20 Local programme
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Message from Cairo
20:40 A programme on the Ministry of Public Works

PROGRAMME TWO

18:40 Des chiffres et des lettres
18:50 C'est-à-dire
19:00 News in French
19:15 Aujourd'hui en Jordanie
19:30 News in Hebrew
19:45 Varieties
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Three's Company
20:55 Documentary — Architecture at the Crossroads

RADIO JORDAN

855 KHz. AM & 99 MHz. FM & partly on 95.60 KHz. SW

Tel. 774111-19

PROGRAMME ONE

07:00 Light Music
07:30 News
08:00 Morning Show
08:30 News Summary
08:45 Morning Show Cont.
11:00 Country Music
11:30 Songs from Movies
12:00 News Summary
12:45 Guide to the Galaxy
13:00 Pop Session
13:30 News Summary
13:45 Pop Session
14:00 News Bulletin
14:15 Old Favorites
14:45 Your Health
15:00 Concert Hour
16:00 News Summary
16:05 Instruments
16:30 Old Favorites
17:00 Jordan Weekly
17:30 Pop Session
18:00 News Summary
18:45 Women in Music Masters and Music

PROGRAMME TWO

07:00 News
07:30 Date with a Star
08:00 Evening Show
21:00 News Summary
21:45 Evening Show Cont.
22:00 News Summary
22:30 Evening Show Continued
23:00 News Summary
23:45 Evening Show Continued
24:00 News Headlines
24:30 Close Down

BBC WORLD SERVICE

639, 720, 1323 KHz

PROGRAMME ONE

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WHAT'S GOING ON

TODAY'S EVENTS

EXHIBITIONS

* An art exhibition by Ayad Al Nimer at the French Cultural Centre (until Dec. 4).

* An exhibition of paintings by Rula Shukhriyat at the Royal Cultural Centre.

* A special exhibition of "Photos of Palestine" at the Professional Association Complex.

* An exhibition of watercolour paintings of Amman, Salt and the Jordanian countryside by Martin Savage at the Petra Bank Gallery — Wadi Saqra (until Dec. 6).

ITALIAN FILM WEEK

* Italian films daily at 8:00 p.m. at the Royal Cultural Centre (until Dec. 4). Tonight's film: "Mass Over"

"BAZAAR"

* German-speaking ladies in Jordan will hold a Christmas bazaar at Amn Hotel, Friday Dec. 5 between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.

CULTURAL CENTRES

Royal Cultural Centre: Tel. 6610267

American Centre: 644371

American Centre Library: 641520

British Council: 6361478

French Cultural Centre: 637009

Goethe Institute: 641993

Soviet Cultural Centre: 644203

Spanish Cultural Centre: 624049

Turkish Cultural Centre: 639777

Hayat Arts Centre: 665195

Hussein Youth City: 6671816

Y.W.C.A.: 641793

Y.W.M.C.A.: 642551

Amman Municipal Library: 637111

University of Jordan Library: 843555

MUSEUMS

Folklore Museum: Jewelry and costumes over 100 years old. Also mosaic from Madaba and Jerash (4th to 18th centuries). The Roman Theatre, Amman. Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5 p.m. Year-round. Tel. 651760.

Jordan Archaeological Museum: Has an excellent collection of the antiquities of

Jordan, Jabel Al Qadisi (Cited Hill)

Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. (Fridays and official holidays 10:0

NEWS IN BRIEF

Social affairs ministers meet in Tunis

TUNIS (Petra) — Minister of Labour and Social Development Hassan Al-Hajj Hassani on Tuesday attended the opening session of the Arab League meeting which is being held at the Arab League headquarters in Tunis. The session was addressed by Arab League Secretary General Chadi Klibi who appealed to Arab countries to bolster pan-Arab cooperation. The three-day meeting will discuss social development projects, two of which will be implemented in Jordan.

Husseini confers with ATU official

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Communications Muhieddin Al-Husseini on Tuesday conferred with the secretary general of the Arab Telecommunications Union (ATU) who is currently in Amman to arrange for an ATU meeting opening on Saturday. During the meeting they discussed subjects on the agenda of the ATU, including the ATU's projects and activities and will assist the ATU in promoting telecommunications between member countries.

Royal Navy ships visit Aqaba

AMMAN (J.T.) — Four ships of the British Royal Navy are paying an informal visit to Aqaba from Dec. 2-4. They are on their way home to Britain after a round-the-world voyage which has taken them to ports in many different countries. The ships are HMS Beaver, a type 22 Frigate, HMS Amazon, a type 21 Frigate, HMS Manchester, a guided missile destroyer and RFA Bayleaf, an auxiliary vessel. Captain Norman Dingemans of HMS Beaver is the senior officer aboard. During the two-day goodwill visit, Captain Dingemans and other senior officers will call on prominent military and civil figures in Amman and Aqaba and visit the Martyrs Memorial in Amman.

Phosphate mines boost production

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordan Phosphates Mines Company has announced that it produced a total of 530,000 tonnes of phosphates from its Wadi Al Abyad mine during the past month, against 440,000 tonnes in the same month of last year. JPMC said that its Wadi Al Abyad mine produced 317,000 tonnes last month against 213,000 tonnes in the same month of last year. Both mines, according to a company spokesman, produced 572,000 tonnes of phosphates over the past 11 months compared with 520,000 in the same period of 1985.

Judges to attend human rights talks

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan will participate in a week-long legal conference on an Arab scheme for the protection of human rights. Ministry of Justice representatives, Judges Adeb Halasa and Fouad Khoury, will attend the meeting which will start on Dec. 6 in Italy.

Alia checks out its TriStars in advance of FAA notification

By Rana Sabbagh
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A recent U.S. recommendation to ground older Lockheed L-1011 TriStars and to inspect them for possible wing structure problems has no bearing whatsoever on the fleet of Alia, the Royal Jordanian Airline, according to an airline official who also said that the national carrier is following much stricter safety checks on its aircraft than set American standards.

Alia Vice President for technical operations Zaid Keilani said on Tuesday that while the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) order for inspection applied to all L-1011 with 10,000 or more cycles of landings and takeoffs, six out of Alia's eight TriStars — with an average of 5,000 cycles — have been checked to date.

"We are not affected by the FAA decision. Instead of waiting until our aircraft reached the ceiling of 10,000 cycles, we decided to go ahead and inspect the planes immediately," Mr. Keilani told the Jordan Times in an interview.

'100 per cent safe'

Alia Director General
Mahmoud Jamal Balqaz

described the carrier's TriStar jets, as "100 per cent safe," and said that Alia was not affected by the FAA decision.

The FAA action was taken after the U.S. national transport safety board raised concern over possible metal fatigue in the wing support beams of older L-1011 jets. It was prompted by an incident on Nov. 13, when a Delta Airline jet landed at Newark airport in New Jersey. Fuel vapours could be seen coming from the tank in the plane's right wing. An examination following the incident found fuel leaking from the wing and substantial damage to the wing supports and fuel tank.

Alia now operates 17 planes, including Boeing 747s, eight TriStars, Boeings 727s and 707s. A recent contract was also signed between Alia and a European consortium of banks to lease six Airbus A-300/310 aircraft and financial arrangements for the leasing of six others is underway. Mr. Keilani said that Alia's first L-1011 TriStar was delivered in September 1981 and the last TriStar was received in May 1983.

Mr. Keilani said that Alia started examining its TriStar jets as soon as they received the FAA notification. Six TriStars have been checked so far and the inspection of the two remaining L-1011 jets will be completed in the coming two weeks, the vice president for technical operations continued.

Engine workshop

All inspections are carried out at Alia's aircraft engine overhaul workshop at the Queen Alia International Airport (QAI). The workshop, inaugurated last December, has units for welding, cleaning, replacing turbines and for conducting "celltests." Each Alia engine is tested once every three weeks at the workshop, which also caters to other Arab and international airlines.

In accordance with the company's annual tradition, a press conference by Alia's chairman of the Board Ali Ghandour is scheduled to be held before Dec. 15, Mr. Balqaz said.

Topics to be raised at the press conference include the budget, profit or loss, expansion in air travel operations and destinations, launching the company's new colours and designs for staff uniforms and stationery. During last year's meeting with the press, Mr. Ghandour said that Alia was expected to break even in its revenues and expenses at the end of 1986. The airline registered a loss of JD 4.5 million in 1984.

Leclercq underlines French commitments to Arab causes and Mideast peace efforts

AMMAN (J.T.) — French Ambassador to Jordan Patrick Leclercq on Tuesday voiced his country's commitment to the Arab World and described Franco-Jordanian relations as "excellent."

"France feels deeply that it has a commitment with the Arab World and must be worthy of the trust placed in it by its Arab friends," Mr. Leclercq told an audience of Jordanian intellectuals and a number of foreign diplomats at a lecture on "France and its Policy in the Middle East."

Mr. Leclercq said a "solid and confident" relationship had been built between the leaders of France and Jordan and stressed that "now we must focus on bringing the two people to know each other better, and work together in the different fields of their activity."

Referring to France's policy in the area, he said that his country has a coherent policy which it would maintain with the same consistency as it has done in the past.

During his lecture at the World Affairs Council in Amman, the French envoy said the French government's stand vis-a-vis the Middle East and since the end of the Algerian war and the era of General de Gaulle has been based on the following bases:

— Relations of mutual respect

excluding any internal interference;

— Recognition of the Arab World as a family of states aspiring to strengthen their unity;

— Respect for the Arab culture and belief as a major contribution to mankind;

— Cooperation to help the Arab states in promoting their economic and social development on the basis of mutual benefit;

— Support of Arab causes.

On the Palestine problem, Mr. Leclercq said France had helped to define and promote the principles of a settlement in the Middle East which were generally accepted by the community of nations.

"France is prepared to assume its responsibilities as a permanent member of the U.N. Security Council in an international peace conference, and to contribute, if needed, to its preparation," Mr. Leclercq said.

On the Iraq-Iran war, Mr. Leclercq described the situation as "tragic" for the countries directly involved and as "a constant and growing threat for the stability of the area."

The French ambassador, who assumed his tenure in Jordan 18 months ago, said France "feels a special commitment towards Lebanon in order to help it restore its unity, sovereignty and territorial integrity."

Amal evicts Palestinian families

(Continued from page 1) the Sidon camps of 'Ain Al Hilweh and Mieh Mieh on Nov. 24 to seize Maghdoush from Amal and fighting spread north to Beirut.

The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) said its fighters "crushed" a tank-led assault against Shatila by militiamen of Justice Minister Nabih Berri's Amal movement.

"Our fighters are holding fast in Shatila despite repeated attempts by Amal to overrun the camp," a PLO communiqué said.

In Damascus, talks continued among Syrian, Libyan, Iranian, Lebanese and Palestinian negotiators on a new plan for an Amal-Palestinian ceasefire. But there were little hopes of arriving at a comprehensive accord acceptable to all.

In Kuwait, two Palestinian leaders were quoted as confirming that rival Palestinian factions in Lebanon have closed ranks against Amal.

Salah Khalaf, second in command of Mr. Arafat's

mainstream Fatah, told the Al Qabas daily that Amal's campaign had forged "a practical military Palestinian unity in Lebanon."

He added: "All Palestinian fighters are joining hands to defend the Palestinian existence there against the conspiracy aimed at liquidating it in Lebanon."

"The war of the camps has substantially helped the quest for Palestinian reunification."

Nayef Hawatmeh, secretary-general of the Democratic Front for Liberation of Palestine (DFLP), Monday forecast a united stand with Mr. Arafat because of the "camps war."

Mr. Hawatmeh told the Al Anbaa newspaper in an interview in Moscow: "It has now become clear... that the war of extermination launched by Amal is not directed against Arafat's supporters as Amal alleges, but... to disarm Palestinian camps and drive Palestinian inhabitants to the north, perhaps outside Lebanese territory."

King, prime minister meet with Egyptian minister of tourism

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein on Tuesday conferred at the Royal Court with Egyptian Minister of Tourism and Civil Aviation Fuad Sultan. The meeting was attended by Minister of Information Mohammad Al Khatib and Egyptian Ambassador to Jordan Ihab Wahbeh.

Dr. Sultan was later received by Prime Minister Zaid Rifai for discussions on means of bolstering Egyptian-Jordanian cooperation in tourist affairs and launching joint tourist projects for the benefit of both countries.

The joint Jordanian-Egyptian committee on cooperation in tourism continued its meetings here on Tuesday with its four teams following up on the first session held Monday.

One of the teams entrusted with tackling the subject of promoting the marketing of Jordanian and Egyptian tourist attractions discussed setting up joint tourist exhibitions in both countries and in other parts of the world. Also reviewed was a plan for a joint marketing programme in European and American countries and issuing joint information and tourist publications to highlight tourist attractions in both countries.

The second team entrusted with facilitating travel procedures discussed the issue of visas, procedures followed at ports and airports in Egypt and Jordan, special facilities for tourist groups, launching joint tourist trips between Aqaba and Nuweiba and Sinai and Pharaoh Island in addition to the subject of considering travel between the two countries as domestic and therefore not subject to procedures which are normally adopted at other ports and points of entry. The committee also

reviewed special facilities for vessels, cars and lorries.

The third team, entrusted with discussing encouraging investments in the tourism sector, studied means available for carrying out tourist projects to be financed through a holding company which will also finance other tourist installations.

The fourth team on civil aviation and air transport discussed exempting Egyptian and Jordanian passengers on flights between the two countries from paying entry or departure fees and allowing the Royal Jordanian Airline's planes to land at any Egyptian airport and to be exempted from paying landing fees. Royal Jordanian Airline offices around the world would undertake the task of marketing Egyptian and Jordanian tourist sites abroad, a practice which

would be adopted also by Egypt Air.

Dr. Sultan and his 18-member accompanying delegation, which groups senior representatives of Egypt's tourism and passport control ministries as well as hotel unions, transport agencies, the ports corporation and tourism companies, arrived in Amman on Monday morning for a five-day visit.

The Jordanian side to the meeting groups an equal level of official representation from the public and private sectors.

The four committees will end their meeting on Wednesday evening when the minutes of the meeting will be signed. The minutes of the joint committee's deliberations will be presented to the forthcoming session of the Joint Jordanian-Egyptian Higher Committee, scheduled to meet in Amman in April.

During their stay, the Egyptian delegation will visit Aqaba, Petra, Jerash, the Dead Sea and a number of the country's touristic and historical sites in Amman to get first-hand information on Jordan's touristic potentials.



His Majesty King Hussein confers with Egyptian Minister for Tourism and Civil Aviation Fuad Sultan in a meeting attended by Minister of Information, Tourism and Antiquities Mohammad Al Khatib (second from left) and Egyptian Ambassador Ihab Wahbeh (left).

JORDAN WELFARE LOTTERY

Ordinary issue No 332

Drawing of: Dec. 2, 1986

Winning Tickets

Holder of ticket No. 30692
Wins JD 20,000

Holder of ticket No. 16841
Wins JD 5,000

Holder of ticket No. 23226
Wins JD 2,500

Holder of ticket No. 04761
Wins JD 2,000

Holder of ticket No. 52062
Wins JD 1,000

Holder of ticket No. 38818
Wins JD 1,000

Holder of ticket No. 35187
Wins JD 800

Holder of ticket No. 27836
Wins JD 600

Ten consolation prizes totalling JD 800 each wins JD 80
30693 30602 30792 31692 40692
30691 30682 30592 39692 20692

Ten consolation prizes totalling JD 400 each wins JD 40
16842 16851 16941 17841 26841
16840 16831 16741 15841 06841

Ten consolation prizes totalling JD 200 each wins JD 20
23227 23236 23326 24226 33226
23225 23216 23126 22226 13226

Ten consolation prizes totalling JD 100 each wins JD 10
04762 04771 04861 05761 14761
04760 04751 04661 03761 54761

Ten consolation prizes totalling JD 80 each wins JD 8
52063 52072 52162 53062 02062
52061 52052 52962 51062 42062

Ten consolation prizes totalling JD 60 each wins JD 6
38819 38828 38918 39818 48818
38817 38808 39718 37818 28818

Ten consolation prizes totalling JD 40 each wins JD 4
35188 35197 35287 36187 45187
35186 35177 35087 34187 25187

Ten consolation prizes totalling JD 20 each wins JD 2
27837 27846 27936 28836 37836
27835 27826 27736 26836 17836

Ticket numbers 10596 13483 10365 40375 win JD 200 each

Ticket numbers 33443 31675 56978 win JD 100 each

TICKETS ENDING WITH

4823 5289 0035 4972 4046 Win JD 20 each

5271 3485 5265 3905 8791 Win JD 10 each

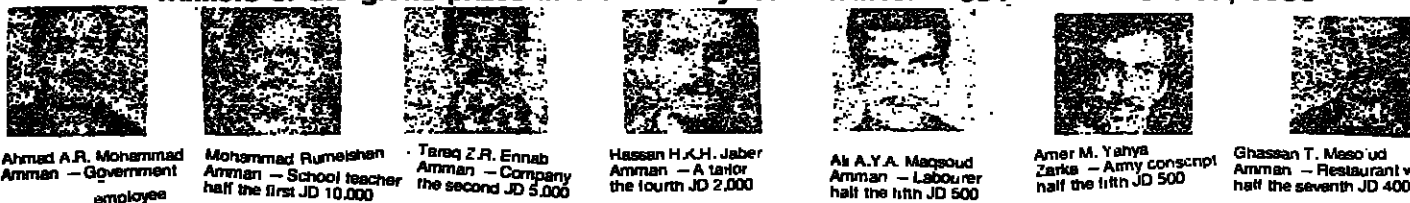
246 006 838 349 968 Win JD 5 each

6000 tickets ending with 4 (Four) Win JD 2 each.

COVER PRIZES FOR THE LOTTERY SELLERS

Thirty covers, attached to the stub of 10 ending in 092 514 920 690 870 Win JD 10

Winners of the grand prizes in the ordinary issue number 331 of Nov. 17, 1986



Next Drawing takes place on December 17, 1986

First eight biggest prizes are issued from GUVS headquarters.



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Editor-in-Chief: GEORGE S. HAWATMEH

Editorial and advertising offices: Jordan Press Foundation, University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.

Telephones: 667171-6, 670141-4

Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO

Facsimile: 661242

The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays.

Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times advertising department.

One of many things the U.S. can do

FOR THREE successive weeks now, Israeli rampage, violence and hostility against Palestinians in Jerusalem had reigned supreme with no sign that this alarming situation is abating. The International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People was observed by Palestinians everywhere especially in Jerusalem and its environs on Nov. 29 with protests and a general strike. On the same day the U.N. Security Council was seized with the situation wave of Israeli violence against Arabs in Jerusalem and was about to issue a statement calling on Israel to fulfil its responsibilities under the Fourth Geneva Convention dealing with the protection of civilians under military occupation. The proposed statement was regrettably blocked by the U.S. delegation. On the local scene, Jordan called on the international community to take urgent action to stop the violence and intimidation being perpetrated against Palestinians in Jerusalem.

The prolonged violence in Jerusalem means, in a nutshell, that Jerusalem is still a divided city notwithstanding the unilateral political and juridical decision by Israel to annex the Arab part of Jerusalem. The Arab governments as well as the United Nations have declared on more than one occasion that the Israeli decision is null and void and is rejected ipso facto by the international community, as without any legal standing whatsoever. The violence in Jerusalem is a living testimony that the Israeli military conquest of Jerusalem as well as the other Arab territories will be fought nail and tooth till the bitter end. And the events that occurred in Jerusalem over the last three weeks cannot be construed as isolated incidents or mere aberrations in an otherwise harmonious and peaceful inter-communal relations.

The protests and general strike by Palestinians everywhere on the occasion of the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People are grim reminders that 39 years after the partition of Palestine the solution to the Palestinian conflict is nowhere in sight. The glimmer of hope which was ignited with the call for convening of an international peace conference on the Palestinian conflict under the auspices of the U.N. Security Council has yet to glow to fruition.

The disclosure of the clandestine arms deals with Iran in its war with Iraq have obviously left the U.S. administration almost totally incapacitated to direct any policies in an even-handed manner in the Middle East. Even in this situation one of many things which the U.S. could do to shore up its shrinking credibility in the Middle East is to rethink again on the ways how to convene an international conference which could squarely address all problems facing the Middle East. It remains always an enigma why the U.S., a superpower, should be clinging on to the apron strings of its own protégé Israel when it comes to the question of fair dealings for all in the region.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: King reaffirms solidarity

IN a message to the United Nations committee on the Palestinian people's rights, King Hussein reaffirmed the need for total solidarity on the part of world nations with the Palestinian people who, the King said, are continuously suffering from Israel's occupation. The King made it clear that the Palestinian people are being subjected to tragedies and continued oppression inside and outside their occupied homeland and that the Israelis were continuously trying to obliterate the Palestinians and their Arab identity from lands they have been occupying in Palestine. In his message the King referred to the inseparable unity between the peoples of Jordan and Palestine and pledged that Jordan will continue to help the Palestinian people to regain their homeland in the face of Israel's expansionist designs. Since the beginning of Zionist invasion of Arab territory, the King said, the Jordanians and the Palestinians have been standing together, united in the face of aggression and oppression. He appealed to the world community to help establish peace based on justice and the recognition of the Palestinian people's rights, in implementation of United Nations resolutions. The King said that a lasting peace can be achieved through an international conference to be held under United Nations auspices. King Hussein said that Israel and the United States have been rejecting the idea of such a conference, but there is still hope that the international community can impose peace and find means of establishing stability in the Middle East.

Al Dustour: Jordan is committed

THE world community's observance of the Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People stands out as witness to this community's concern over that people and the sufferings and tragedies the Palestinians have been subjected to over the years. King Hussein said in a message to the United Nations that Jordan, which shared with the Palestinian people all their sufferings, has been committed to helping them in their struggle for regaining their homeland. Jordan as the King pointed out, has shouldered its responsibility towards this people, displaying solidarity with them and assisting them to resist Israel's arbitrary measures and expansionist designs. The day of solidarity with the Palestinian people presents another chance for the world community to double its efforts and persuade Israel's supporters and allies that they should seek justice in dealing with the Arab-Israeli conflict and ought to realise the danger inherent in Israel's continued occupation of Arab territory. World nations realise that the Arabs are for peace, while Israel continues to abort any efforts to find a lasting solution to the problem. They realise that as the Arabs continue to respond favourably to United Nations resolutions, Israel continues to violate all laws and principles and human rights in the territories it has been occupying in Palestine. In his message, King Hussein appealed to the United Nations Organisation to help the Palestinians regain their lawful rights; and he expressed total confidence in the world community's ability to bring justice to the oppressed people of the world.

Sawt Al Shaab: Solidarity with Palestinians

ON the Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People King Hussein reminded the world community of its duty to help the Palestinians regain their rights and their homeland. The King said that Jordan has over the years displayed total solidarity with the Palestinians, helping them in their just struggle. The King said that the Palestinians and the Jordanians formed one unity in the face of Israel's expansionist designs and its attempts to obliterate the Arab character of Palestine. He reminded the world community of the untold tragedies and the continued sufferings of the Palestinian people as a result of Israel's occupation of their homeland and their displacement. The Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People should serve as a good investment in the continued struggle to help the displaced people return to their homeland, and ought to prompt all world nations to pursue the endeavour for helping the Arabs regain their rights in their homeland. Solidarity with the Palestinians should take the form of determined efforts to assist this people in their drive to achieve peace based on justice, and in implementation of U.N. Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. King Hussein's message to the U.N. committee on the Palestinian rights reiterated Jordan's determination to stand by the Palestinians in their struggle, and also called on the world community to translate its resolutions and decisions into practice, and to impose peace and stability in the Middle East.

Reagan's motives for dealing with Iran

By Edward Mortimer

The writer, a former Middle East specialist of The Times, is joining the Financial Times in January 1987, as assistant foreign editor. He is the author of *Faith and Power: the politics of Islam*. This article is reprinted from the London-based Middle East international.

THERE is something about Iran which seems to bring out the worst in the American government — not necessarily in the sense of moral turpitude but in the sense of disastrous incompetence, resulting mainly from the division of responsibilities in Washington and the apparent inability of presidents to decide on a clear policy line and impose it on all their aides and advisers. No one who has read Gary Sick's excellent book on the Carter administration's "fateful encounter with Iran" will quickly forget the appalling confusion within, and consequent contradictory signals without, that characterised America's official response to the Islamic revolution in 1978-9: the state department pushing for a deal with the opposition, Brzezinski urging that the revolution be crushed by force. Vance preoccupied with Camp David, Carter struggling to arbitrate, the ambassador on the spot making up his own instructions and describing those he received from Washington as "insane", and anyone who lost a given round in the bureaucratic battle immediately seeking to undermine or overturn the decision taken by leaking to the press.

Enough to make any Reaganite feel smug — until the extraordinary revelations of this month. One can see now what General Alexander Haig was driving at when he sought to reestablish the secretary of state as the president's single unchallenged "vicar" in foreign policy, and it must be regretted that he went about in such an absurdly crude way as to be completely self-defeating. That the White House should attempt to conduct a foreign policy of its own behind the secretary of state's back is no novelty in itself — the precedents go back at least as far as Roosevelt; but some sort of record in naivety has surely been achieved with the supposition that a secret too embarrassing to be

given to the CIA (because it would then reach the eyes of congressional intelligence committees) would nonetheless be quite safe in the hands of Hojatoleslam Hashemi Rafsanjani, the speaker of the Iranian majlis. There is something almost touching about the admission subsequently made to members of Congress by Admiral Poindexter that the White House had made "a miscalculation on who it could trust in Iran."

In that respect this episode recalls a later phase of Carter's Iranian agony: the abortive attempt to negotiate the release of the U.S. hostages in the winter and spring of 1980. Then too the administration miscalculated in pinning its hopes on what turned out to be the wrong side in the Iranian power struggle, in the shape of President Abolhassan Bani Sadr and Foreign Minister Sadeh Ghotbzadeh. Their involvement with the U.S. became a useful weapon in the hands of their opponents, and it was not until they were effectively neutralised and the power of the Islamic Republican party consolidated, in the autumn of 1980, that the latter's leaders in their turn were ready to settle the hostage issue, using Algeria as an intermediary.

For a long time after that America understandably gave the Islamic Republic a very wide berth, leaving it to allies like Britain and West Germany to maintain such communications as there were, and "tilted" increasingly towards Iraq in the Gulf war. At this stage we can only speculate about the precise motives that led the Reagan administration — or anyway a part of it — to make a new attempt at reopening relations, apparently some time early in 1985. (President Reagan has now told us that the "secret diplomatic initiative" has been "under way" for 18 months.) Reagan himself, in his televised "confession" on November 13 — why is it that Americans are so much more willing to take this kind of thing from him than from poor old Carter? — gave four reasons: "to renew a relationship with the nation of Iran; to bring an honourable end to the bloody war between Iran and Iraq; to eliminate state-sponsored

terrorism and subversion; and to effect the safe return of all hostages."

Of the four, the second is perhaps the least convincing. It seems reasonable to suppose that Reagan would not regard an outright Iranian victory as an

"honourable end" to the war. Yet this is the outcome most likely to be assisted by allowing Iran to receive much needed spare parts for its American weapons. Some commentators have suggested that "Washington could live with the defeat of Iraqi regime as the



Turmoil clouds U.S. dialogue with Soviets, allies

By Charles Bremner

WASHINGTON — The turmoil in President Reagan's administration over Iran has further clouded chances of progress on a U.S.-Soviet arms accord and added uncertainty to Washington's dealings with its allies, analysts say.

The North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) allies were already uneasy over Reagan's intentions on arms control after he almost committed the United States to a dramatic disarmament deal at his Iceland summit with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev last month.

Reagan since has backed away from the package, which Western leaders fear could have prematurely removed the U.S. nuclear umbrella and threatened the security of Europe.

Senior U.S. and Soviet officials met on Tuesday in Geneva to review the effort to negotiate nuclear curbs. Diplomats said progress appears unlikely.

On Friday, Washington took another step that sowed fresh alarm among the allies when it went ahead with a plan to break the 1979 strategic arms limitation treaty (SALT-2) accords limiting long-range nuclear arsenals.

Diplomats say Reagan's weakened leadership as a result of the White House's Iranian arms scandal also is a handicap for his dealings with the Soviets, who issued a strong condemnation of the U.S. move on SALT-2.

A senior Gorbachev adviser,

Georgy Arbatov, has publicly questioned the merits of doing further business with Reagan. Drawing parallels between U.S. confusion after the Reykjavik summit and the Iran affair, he spoke last week of "the heaps of lies ... the attempt to pervert everything."

Diplomats said they expected Moscow to pursue negotiations with Washington, seeking to exploit the administration's weaknesses. Some speculated that Moscow hoped Reagan's strong desire to leave his presidency in two years with an arms agreement could lead him to concessions.

Misgivings in allied capitals over Reagan's competence have intensified following conflicting statements from top aides on arms control, the confusion over who is running U.S. policy, and the latest move on SALT-2, they say.

These doubts were further fuelled by the revelations of secret U.S. arms sales to Iran, the profits of which were channelled to contra rebels in Nicaragua.

Senator Albert Gore said the decision to break out of SALT-2 — the only surviving U.S.-Soviet offensive arms agreement — was a mistake as serious as selling arms to Iran.

The Atlantic allies have a chance to clear the air over the next two weeks when their defence and foreign ministers meet for scheduled consultations in Europe.

But doubts persist over which voice from the U.S. leadership will be heard.

Secretary of State George

Shultz came close to resigning over the Iran affair and disowned aspects of White House policy. Defence Secretary Caspar Weinberger, who differs with Shultz on many issues, also opposed arms sales to Iran.

But some European diplomats said Shultz's own credibility had suffered not just from the Iran debacle but also from his handling of the Reykjavik negotiations.

Shultz advised Reagan throughout the talks and publicly described their breakdown as a huge disappointment before signing himself with the White House line that the summit had made significant achievements.

Allied officials have privately questioned Shultz's judgment in halting the terms of an accord that would have removed all U.S. medium-range missiles from Europe and scrapped U.S. and Soviet strategic missiles in a decade.

"The defence of Europe needs an intellectual contribution (from Europe)," he told Reuters. "They can't go on forever leaving the hard work to the Americans."

Henry Kissinger, a former secretary of state, wrote in the Washington Post: "Reykjavik will prove a blessing if it shocks the alliance into overcoming the evasions of recent decades and developing a coherent military and arms control strategy."

British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl, President Francois Mitterrand of France and other allied leaders have said Soviet superiority in conventional forces must be

removed before the alliance gives up dependence on nuclear deterrence.

In the shorter term, the allies fear that removal of U.S. medium-range missiles to match the scrapping of Soviet SS-20 weapons could "decouple" Europe from U.S. protection and leave it vulnerable to long and short-range Soviet weapons and superior Warsaw Pact forces.

The Pershing-2 and cruise missiles, installed in Western Europe after late 1983, are regarded by Western strategists as an important symbol of U.S. commitment to the nuclear defence of the continent.

West German Defence Minister Manfred von Weizsäcker said in Washington this month that he believed Gorbachev would soon detach the "Euro-missile" issue from his conditions on Star Wars, enabling negotiators to work out an accord.

This would place the allies in a delicate political dilemma. Both West Germany and Britain face general elections in the near future with opposition parties committed to anti-nuclear platforms.

While polls show West Germany's Social Democratic Party faces a tough struggle to displace Kohl, Britain's Labour Party is seen as a major threat to Thatcher's Conservatives.

Labour leader Neil Kinnock is in the United States seeking to convince opinion-makers that his party's pledges to remove U.S. nuclear weapons and scrap the British deterrent will not undermine the alliance.

price for ending the Gulf war; which is no doubt true, but if Reagan has been offering to try and arrange this the meaning of the word "honourable" will have to be considerably stretched. Most people in the Middle East would be frankly sceptical that Washington has any interest in seeing the war ended at all. Personally I am not quite so cynical, but any way, if one assumes that the war must end somehow, some day, there is a fairly obvious Western interest that it should end in something less than a tide of Islamic revolution rolling across the Arab World on Iranian gun-turrets; which would be one reason why American policy-makers might rationally seek to influence the character of Iran's post-Khomeini leadership in a pragmatic rather than fanatical direction.

In other words, Reagan's second reason is really a subsidiary aspect of his first, "to renew a relationship with the nation of Iran" — and this, it seems fairly certain, is the primary underlying motivation. American commentators have latched on to a remark attributed to Henry Kissinger that Iran will be "the China of the '90s" — a large, important nation contiguous to the Soviet Union and potentially hostile to it, therefore also potentially useful to the West in spite of the violent anti-Western gestures that have marked its revolutionary phase. "Bud" McFarlane himself, the would-be Kissinger of this new relationship, has actually written to the *Washington Post* explicitly invoking this precedent.

A closer analogy might be Ethiopia: a former pro-Western monarchy with imperial pretensions and a very close security relationship with the U.S., generally recognised as the largest and strongest nation in its region and therefore the greatest strategic prize, which suffers an attack from its smaller neighbour Somalia (formerly a Soviet client), partly for reasons of ethnic irredentism, at a moment when revolutionary turmoil is deemed to render it incapable of an effective riposte. In the Ethiopian case the Soviet Union was able to secure the strategic prize and the Americans were left with the former Soviet client. In 1980 Moscow must have had good hopes of repeating this in the Gulf region, where the stakes are considerably higher. But so far these hopes have been frustrated; because Iran proved able and willing to defend itself without significant Soviet help, and the ideology of its revolution (unlike that of the Ethiopian regime) incited it to do so. The fall of the shah, however bruising to American self-respect, has thus proved less disastrous for Western strategic interests, at least in the short term, than many feared at

the time. But the permanence of that outcome is not taken for granted in Washington. Among the clerics jostling for Khomeini's succession a faction can be identified which seems to favour closer cooperation with the Soviet bloc; and the more Iran is isolated, and the greater its difficulties in financing the war effort out of oil revenues — the more persuasive one may suppose the arguments of this faction to be.

It is in any case very difficult for a superpower to accept that its influence can be permanently excluded from any major country in the world. One can see that Iran's expression of interest in dialogue, conveyed through a diplomat of a third country — which, McFarlane implies, was the starting point of the present imbroglio — would have struck the White House as more or less irresistible. The apparent stabilisation of the Islamic regime after the violence of the early '80s would also, presumably, have suggested that the time for more normal relations might be ripening — especially as the succession to Khomeini appeared, at that time, to have been settled. Even if one thought that the power struggle was likely to be resumed after Khomeini's death, this would probably have seemed an additional reason to try and get some sort of working relationship established while he was still alive, and so obtain his blessing for it.

If that was the background, thinking, Reagan's last two reasons — the battle against "state-sponsored terrorism and subversion" and the closely related (though some would say contradictory) desire to get the American hostages in Iran released — would clearly provide the immediate incentive. Whatever the truth about the Hawdawi case, and whatever questions Colonel Qadhafi may have to answer for, few analysts of Middle Eastern affairs would dispute that Iran, in recent years, has been the state most heavily involved in sponsoring, if not "terrorism" in general, then certainly the movements which go in for taking foreigners hostage in Lebanon. Westerners who discussed have always been told that this is an aspect of Lebanese affairs over which Syria does not exercise direct control. Some of the movements in question appear even to be used by Iran — or should one say by "elements within the Iranian regime"? — partly for the purpose of undermining Syrian influence in Lebanon. So it is not surprising that the U.S., like France, came to the conclusion that if one wanted to gain any leverage over the movements in question one would have to deal with Tehran. But the awkward question that arises after the events and disclosures of the last two weeks is, just who has acquired leverage over whom?

LETTERS

The missing link

To the Editor:

ALL it takes is a little imagination and a bit of coordination to present news items on television. Very unfortunately, it appears that both are in short supply at Jordan Television. The latest example was Monday (Nov. 24) night, news at 10. The newscaster was saying that the Israeli leaders were keeping silent about the reported American arms sales and the Jewish state's role in the affair, but the scenes in the background were showing containers being loaded onto a ship and a flash of a missile launcher. Most probably, the film was taken from European or American television networks carrying reports that Danish and other vessels were used to transport arms from Eilat to Bandar Abbas. As we heard nothing on JTV on the issue, even when they had good footage available and the news of Israeli leaders keeping silent, viewers must have felt JTV was adding insult to injury in the whole thing.

In that particular newscast when JTV showed Philippines presidential spokesman Teodoro Benigno talking to reporters explaining the government version of the coup plans that Corason Aquino quashed, it would have been much better if the newscaster/editor/director left the talking to the spokesman who was speaking in English. The third instance that night was when the same newscaster was reading out news of the death of South African gold miners, the background film, for over 10 seconds, was on the decision by Barclays Bank to leave South Africa. An average viewer would have thought the South African miners met their death at the branch of Barclays Bank for some inexplicable reason.

This letter is not intended as a harsh attack from which one could take savage pleasure. The instances cited herein are simple and straight and I hope they would be accepted as such by JTV and would prompt someone there to rethink coordination among editors, directors and newscasters.

Anoop Anand
Amman

Don't take us for granted

To the Editor:

THANK you JTV's Channel 2 for giving us the opportunity to watch the enjoyable Latin dance performance/contest last Saturday, and for deciding to cut the programme for the ten o'clock news when it was just starting to become interesting.

I would like to remind you that the programme was a contest. A contest is defined, according to the *Grolier International Dictionary*, as "To compete or strive for; any competition; especially, one in which entrants perform separately and are rated by judges." It sits in my mind the word *result*.

I think it would be appreciated if you had made some effort to time the programme before airing it, just for some of the curious people who demand to see the result of a contest. What an expectation.

Thanks again Channel 2 for not taking us for granted next time.

Sawwan Darwaza
Amman

N. Korean president's son has firm grip on succession

By Graham Earnshaw

Reuter

PYONGYANG — The personality cult of North Korean president Kim Il-Sung is being boosted by his son Kim Jong-Il, apparently to ensure his own future as leader of the isolated Communist state, foreign sources in Pyongyang said.

The cult, which completely dominates the lives of North Korea's 20 million people, portrays Kim, 74, as a being endowed with super-human powers and as "the sun of mankind who illuminates the world."

A number of huge monuments to the elder Kim have been built in Pyongyang since his son rose to power in the early 1980s, and the sources said they appeared to be part of the son's efforts to strengthen his hold on the succession.

Kim Jong-Il, 44, was promoted by his father to become heir-apparent in the early 1980s and he is now believed to have full

control of domestic affairs while his father retains controls of foreign affairs.

But there are persistent rumours in the diplomatic community that some people in the North Korean leadership are unhappy about him succeeding his father.

The official media's constant stress on Kim's greatness and infallibility, and on his son as the loyal disciple appears part of an effort to mute criticism of what will be the world's first Communist dynasty, observers here said.

The cult of personality built by Kim since he was installed as leader of North Korea in 1945 by Soviet troops, far surpasses anything attempted by Soviet leadership Joseph Stalin or Chinese leader Mao Tse-tung.

Kim's portrait is seen wherever you turn — on buildings, on badges on the chests of all officials, and on the walls of virtually every office and home in the country.

The names of "the great leader"

Kim Il-Sung and "the dear leader" Kim Jong-Il are always on the lips of officials and every achievement and advance, no matter how trivial, is attributed to one or the other.

The capital city of Pyongyang is full of monuments to the great leader, including a tower 150 metres high, built to commemorate his 70th birthday in 1982. It is faced with 25,500 granite blocks, one for each day of the great leader's life.

His writings, collected in 27 thick volumes, dominate the education of all students from kindergarten through to university. His birthplace has become a Mecca for devotees. The mere sight of him can cause floods of tears from loyal Koreans.

North Koreans say the adulation is a sincere reflection of the deep respect they have for Kim Il-Sung as the man who rebuilt the country after the devastation of the Second World War and the Korean War of 1950-53.

One Korean doctor trained in

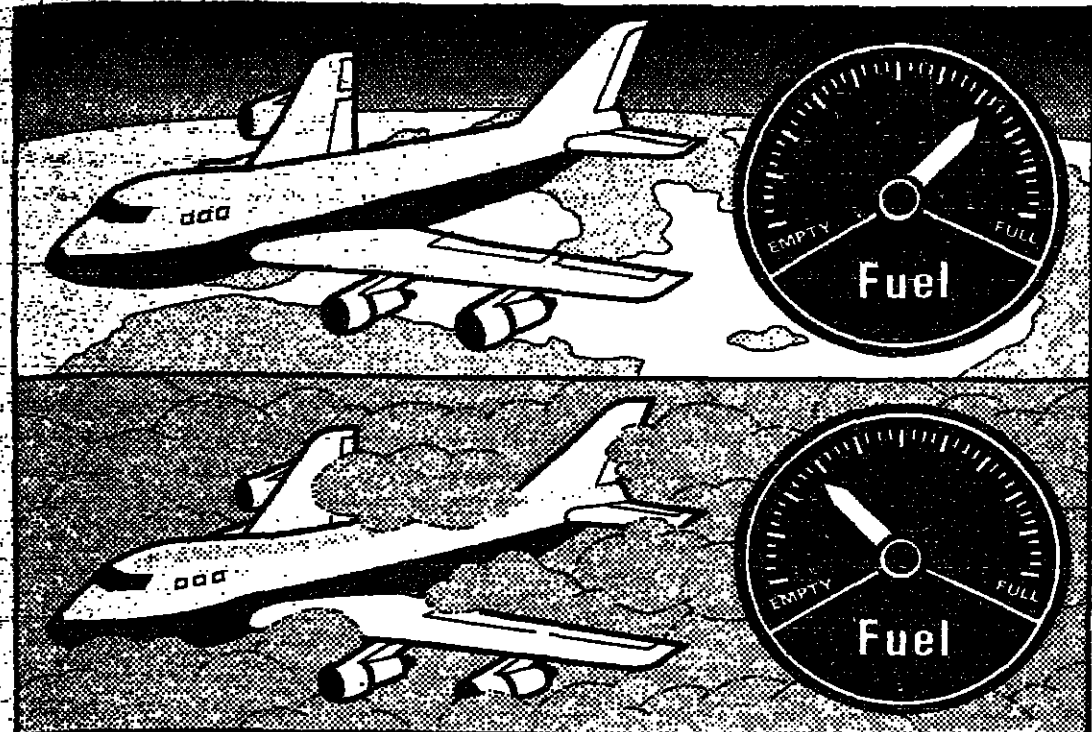
China during the Maoist cultural revolution, asked about the cult of personality, replied carefully: "We don't have such a concept as personality cult in Korea."

Meanwhile, the plump "dear leader" Kim Jong-Il is building up his own image as the high priest of Kim Il-Sungism, the re-incarnation of his father's spirit who will insure that the great leader's legacy is respected and retained.

When the dear leader is mentioned in the official media these days, the superlatives fly almost as thickly as they do for his father.

One book tells the story of how when the dear leader climbed a mountain "the rain clouds dispersed and a rainbow appeared in the sky because the weather recognised its masters."

Articles praise his "sublime personality" and "far-seeing, radiant wisdom." He is the "lodestar who unerringly leads the Korean revolution to triumph" and he has "an exceptional gift for everything."



Take-off to fuel savings

Airlines save money by checking weather forecasts. Mary Wilkinson explains how two forecasting services try to help pilots through the fog of computer print-outs.

LONDON — Millions of pounds a year can be saved off airline fuel bills by making use of accurate, up-to-the-minute weather forecasts from the Meteorological Office in Bracknell, U.K., just west of London.

Savings of £50 million (\$71 million) a year between the world's major airlines already using the service are estimated by the Met Office, and the seven scientists who developed the computerised forecasting system have just received an energy conservation accolade for their work — the 1986 Royal Society Energy Award.

Only two centres in the world carry out global aviation forecasts — Bracknell and the U.S. World Forecasting Centre in Washington. Bracknell, however, appears to have the edge as most of the large American and European airlines have opted for the British system in preference to Washington's. Customers include Pan Am, TWA, British Airways, Japan Airlines, Scandinavian Airlines, Lufthansa, Air France and American Airlines.

The forecasts provide wind-speed, direction and temperature across the world and for 15 layers of the atmosphere reaching six miles above the earth to the stratosphere. With this information, at their fingertips, airline operators can economise on fuel by choosing routes to make maximum use of prevailing winds.

Savings can be made even if flight paths are already dictated by air traffic control — such as on congested overseas routes — by using wind data to calculate exactly how much fuel will be needed — carrying too much just increases the weight of the aircraft and causes more fuel to be burnt.

Flight planners at Scandinavian Airlines (SAS) have noticed a marked improvement since the airline started using Bracknell's forecasts. Karl Fredriksson, responsible for flight planning support systems, says an average 35 kilogramme of fuel per flight-hour is being saved, representing £2 million a year.

"Before we started using Bracknell, we had several unplanned fuel stops caused by incorrect wind predictions on, for example, our Bangkok-Copenhagen route," he explains. "Now, unplanned fuel stops are very rare and usually caused by errors on our part, such as understating the weight of the aircraft."

SAS receives the forecast data directly from the Met Office but the majority of airlines use a flight-planning agency. One such agency, SITA, supplies Met Office forecasts to 14 airlines including Swissair, Singapore Airlines and Qantas. A SITA executive from the agency's data-processing centre in London says: "At the moment the demand from the airlines for the Bracknell system

— it enjoys a high reputation." But not all the airlines are so complimentary about the Met Office service. British Airways, and British Caledonian, with the backing of the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) standing conference, dispute the fuel savings figures given by Bracknell.

David Page, responsible for flight planning at British Caledonian, believes the most which can be attributed to the forecasts are savings of 0.1 to 0.2 per cent on fuel costs. Howard Davies, his counterpart at British Airways, agrees, adding that it represents savings of only £500,000 a year for his airline. "Technically we have no problems with the forecasts but the economies made by computerised flight-planning are as much due to the computing we do here as to the Met Office forecasts."

The airlines' chief complaint is the price they have to pay for the service. All those using U.K. airspace pay charges to the CAA which in turn is charged over £18 million a year by the Met Office. Charles Owen, a consultant to the CAA standing conference who is co-ordinating a campaign on behalf of the airlines to get the charges reduced, claims that civil aviation is the only industry paying full price for Met Office services. "Marine services, the media and North Sea oil operators are charged a subsidised price." He adds that 48 per cent of the charges are falling on British operators, as they are the largest users of British airspace.

The Met Office argues that the airlines are getting good value for money, and claims it would cost aircraft operators an extra £500 million a year if there were no weather forecasts at all.

To produce the forecasts, the Met Office uses a Cyber 205 supercomputer from Control Data which is capable of performing 400 million operations per second. This "number crunching" power allows a global, 24-hour forecast to be produced in four minutes — the fastest in the world, claims the Met Office.

A quarter of a million items of observation data from ground sensors, satellites, etc., are processed and mapped on to a latitude/longitude grid of the world containing 300,000 points. Until the arrival of Cyber in September 1982, the Met Office had been restricted by lack of computing power to a 10-layer model covering most of the Northern Hemisphere, instead of the global, 15-layer model.

Since 1982, the Met Office's research effort has concentrated on fine-tuning the numerical equations to improve weather predictions.

The U.S. World Forecasting Centre also has a Cyber 205 but uses different numerical methods and produces only a 12-layer

model.

Chuck (Charles) Lambert, international aviation programme leader at the U.S. centre, agrees that the Met Office forecast is "slightly ahead" in terms of speed and accuracy. But the Americans are hoping to regain the world lead with the introduction of an 18-layer model within the next two months.

"It should enable us to improve the quality of the forecasts although it will require a longer running time on the computer," Lambert says. "But even once the new model is up and going, it'll be a while before it shows its full potential — it will need refining."

Another of the reasons the airlines have flocked to the Bracknell system is because the Americans have stopped transmitting their forecasts in a code known as aviation digital forecast (ADF) and switched to a more efficient code: gridded binary (Grib). The airlines have proved reluctant to reprogram their computers to accept Grib. The Met Office transmits in both codes.

The Americans are obviously hoping their new, more powerful forecasting model will woo customers away from Bracknell. But Dr. Peter White, who led the award-winning team at the Met Office, says that there are no immediate plans to increase the number of layers in the British model. "Since its introduction, there has been a sudden drop in the number of errors between the predicted and actual weather conditions. When errors are reported, he says, the forecasts are often accurate and the problem lies in lost detail between grid points.

He cites the case of a Swissair flight from Tel Aviv to Zurich which ran into almost double the predicted headwind and consumed 7.8 per cent more fuel than had been calculated. The problem was a jetstream which was too narrow relative to the grid lengths to be represented accurately. Higher resolution grids would therefore improve accuracy.

All the same, there have been enormous improvements — a three-day forecast today is as accurate as a one-day forecast ten years ago.

Further forecasting development depends on available computing power. With increased machine speeds, more observations could be taken, more layers added, grid resolution improved and calculations refined.

Dr. White says that his department is keeping an eye on computer developments but there would be little point in replacing the Cyber until something a lot faster came along. "If we halved the grid resolution and doubled the number of levels we would need 16 times the computing power. A computer like that does not exist — yet" — Financial Times feature.

Some of the group's former members tried again this fall to hold an exhibition in Peking, but officials rejected their request.

Meanwhile, some of their younger successors, who also are "unofficial" or not employed as government artists, are being allowed to show paintings at small galleries. Opening such a show is difficult. Artists pay up to 3,000 yuan (\$810), more than two years salary for an urban worker, to rent a hall for a few days.

As a precaution, some artists show their works privately beforehand to trusted members of China's intellectual establishment and discard potentially sensitive ones.

Police closed at least one exhibition in Peking in October with no explanation, said sources who spoke on condition of anonymity. Police warned other artists in September about the political content of several paintings, but their show was allowed to stay open.

Partly out of caution and partly in reaction to sterile propaganda that was the only art allowed during the leftist 1966-76 cultural revolution, most of the artists avoid politics.

"If art is political, it is no longer art, it is politics," said artist You Si, 31.

Others veil political themes in works. They say the stars artists' bid for more freedom was premature and creative freedom will expand if artists are more careful.

"We want to be able to continue and show our paintings next year and the year after that," artist Wang Fei, 25, said at a recent Peking exhibition of his and several friends' paintings.

Rock 'n' Roll trivia becoming big business

By Marcus Eliason
The Associated Press

LONDON — Hilary Kay says she can spot a fake Beatles autograph at a glance. Finding an original, she says, is a bit like finding a Ming dynasty Chinese vase.

Miss Kay is a pioneer in the burgeoning industry of rock memorabilia. Such treasures as a napkin signed by Elvis Presley or George Harrison's first guitar are being sold at such auction houses as Christie's, Sotheby's and Phillips.

The venerable old auctioneering names are more readily associated with 18th-century snuff boxes and Renoir originals than with ex-Beatle John Lennon's rolls royce in psychedelic colours.

As Sotheby's expert on pop memorabilia, Miss Kay has been staging an auction a year since 1981, taking bids from as far away as Japan and Australia.

She also publishes sumptuous catalogues filled with photographs of Beatles gold records, a

wristwatch owned by Presley, a guitar once used by Jimi Hendrix, or a Steinway baby grand piano played by Elton John.

Miss Kay, who is young enough to have learned about the Beatles from her parents, sits in a crowded office where antique cricket bats and model battleships vie for space with desktop computers.

Conversation with her is interrupted constantly by new artifacts dropping onto her desk for evaluation: a telescope circa 1830, a collection of cigarette cards, an ancient matchbox.

Collectibles are her trade, and the Rock era her passion. She daydreams, she says, "about a wonderful old guitar lurking in some second-hand goods shop and nobody's aware that it once belonged to Eric Clapton."

She says she got the idea while looking for new markets for a business eager to shed its aloof image.

"I was interested in people who had an interest in rare objects and had a disposable income but were not catered to by conventional

Sotheby sales," she said.

Sotheby's first Rock auction was held in 1981, highlighted by pianos, battered and worthless but distinguished for having once belonged to Lennon and co-Beatle Paul McCartney. They fetched 7,500 and 8,000 pounds (\$13,800 and \$14,720) respectively.

But the item that sold Sotheby's was onto a winner was a simple Lennon self-portrait that fetched, 8,000 pounds (14,720) — nearly 60 times its estimated value.

In all, the sale raised 97,660 pounds (\$179,695) — almost double the expected total. Since then, each auction has seen higher revenues, reaching 279,405 pounds (\$536,755) at last August's sale.

Christie's and Phillips soon joined the rush.

"It certainly is a growing market — a whimsical market, but holding its ground very well," says Kerry Wallace, pop expert at Christie's, which held its first pop auction three years ago.

Her favourite item is Bill

Haley's guitar, which he had left in London for repairs after a European tour and didn't live to collect. It sold this year for 15,500 pounds (\$22,000).

The industry is dominated by Beatles memorabilia, simply because the foursome were so much more successful than their rivals. But Presley items are showing up more frequently, and the Rolling Stones, Elton John, Led Zeppelin, Jimi Hendrix, Buddy Holly, Eric Clapton and The Beach Boys featured at Sotheby's last auction.

One poignant item was battered old guitar that George Harrison's parents bought for him for three pounds (about \$12) long before he became a Beatle. It sold for 3,960 pounds, more than \$5,600.

Rod Murray, a friend of Lennon's who was unable to join the Beatles in 1960 because he couldn't afford a guitar, sold an unpublished collection of Lennon's poetry and prose through Sotheby's in 1984 for 17,600 pounds (\$22,880).

"The Beatles market is

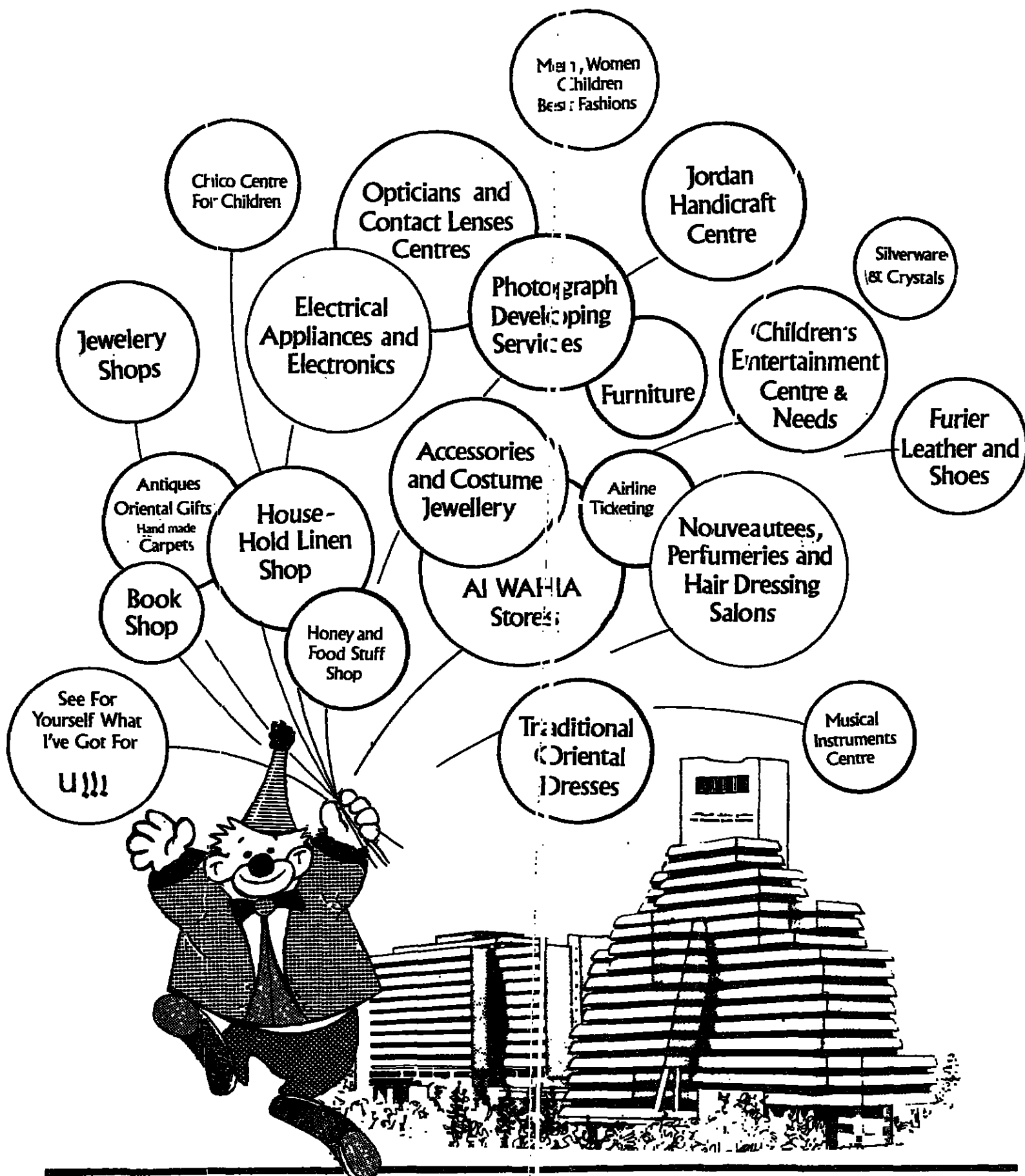
enormous," says Peter J. Johnson of Phillips. "And then there's the guy who came from Memphis — what's his name? 'Elvis Presley. That's the one, he's a good fellow. But he didn't get to be as many artifacts as the Beatles. They were nice lads."

They also make a hefty profit. The standard auctioneer's commission is 10 per cent of the selling price for a buyer and seller.

Miss Kay says sellers must prove ownership of items, and occasionally disputed goods turn up, such as Lennon's Mercedes limousine. It had to be withdrawn from a 1985 Sotheby's sale because a Supreme Court judge May Wilson got a court injunction claiming the car was hers. The litigation continues.

Auction houses generally refuse to identify buyers and sellers, but buyers who don't mind publicity include Seibu, the Japanese department store, and American restaurateur Steve Routhier, who paid 16,800 pounds (\$25,000) this year on items to be displayed in his Dallas eatery.

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Chinese artists cautiously test limits

By Donna Anderson
The Associated Press

PEKING — Several years after China cracked down on modern artists involved in the democracy wall political movement, a new generation of avant-garde painters is more cautiously testing the government's tolerance.

Unlike their activist predecessors from the late 1970s, most of the new "unofficial" artists are apolitically. But their unorthodox works, emphasis on art for personal expression rather than service to the state, free-spirited lifestyle and wide contacts with foreigners have placed them in the risky forefront of efforts to expand creative freedom.

The modern art they and some official artists are producing has sparked debate on China's staid art scene, long dominated by traditional ink-and-water colour scenes and Soviet-style realism.

The Xing Xing (stars) group of democracy wall artists marched

for political freedom and produced bold political art during a short-lived period of free expression in the late 1970s that centered around a wall in Peking on which activists pasted posters.

The Xing Xing group was disbanded after authorities halted use of the wall for political reasons and cracked down on unofficial exhibitions.

Some of the group's former members tried again this fall to hold an exhibition in Peking, but officials rejected their request.

Meanwhile, some of their younger successors, who also are "unofficial" or not employed as government artists, are being allowed to show paintings at small galleries. Opening such a show is difficult. Artists pay up to 3,000 yuan (\$810), more than two years salary for an urban worker, to rent a hall for a few days.

As a precaution, some artists show their works privately beforehand to trusted members of China's intellectual establishment and discard potentially sensitive

Heart of America stuns America II in Cup trials

FREMANTLE, Australia (AP) — Heart of America, skippered by Buddy Melges, stunned America II Tuesday on the opening day of the third round of the America's Cup Challenger trials for the America's Cup.

Heart of America had won only five of 23 races before its 56-second victory over the powerful New York Yacht Club entry.

In the defender series, there was one major surprise when previously winless Steak 'n' Kidney, sporting a new winged keel, raced past fourth-place South Australia, winning by 5:34.

There were no other major surprises in the day's racing, which saw the favorites all winning, with the exception of USA II, the San Francisco-based entry, which lost to Italy after losing a spinnaker overboard and having jib problems. Both boats were flying protest flags at the finish.

America II, sailed by John Holius, dropped from second to fourth place in the challenger standings with 56 points. New Zealand, which won a lopsided victory over Challenge France, now has 78 points, 20 more than Dennis Conner and Stars and Stripes, the San Diego Yacht Club's entry.

Conner gained revenge against Canada II, which upset Stars and Stripes in the second round, as he won by 3:46.

In other races, French Kiss moved from fourth to third place with an easy 2:42 victory over Italy's Azzurra, and England's White Crusader moved closer to fourth place with a surprisingly easy victory over Eagle, based in Newport Beach, California.

Harold Cudmore skipped the English boat to a one-sided 5:40 victory. White Crusader now has 55 points, one behind America II, and faces French Kiss Wednesday.

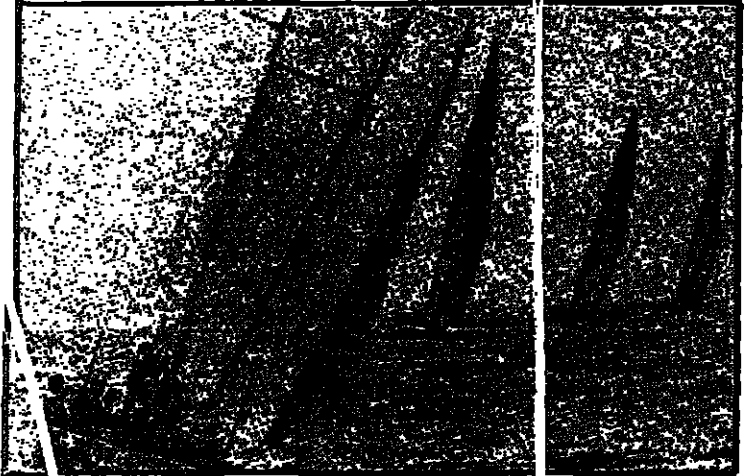
The top four boats after the

third round move into the semifinals, which will begin Dec. 28.

Melges' victory moved the Chicago-based Heart of America from 10th to ninth place — still a long way from fourth, the last semifinal berth. Heart of America now has 25 points and faces New Zealand Wednesday.

In the defender series, Kookaburra III added three points to its lead by defeating stablemate Kookaburra II by 32 seconds.

Kookaburra III now has 32 points, nine more than second-place Australia IV, which had a bye but received three points anyway.



America's Cup challenger yachts race in an early round.

English lead Aussies

PERTH, Australia (R) — England, with captain Mike Gatting the lynch pin and its predecessor David Gower as its spur, amassed an overall lead of 390 after Australia saved the follow-on in the second cricket test Tuesday.

Gatting hit 70 and Gower made a fluent 48 to lift England to 199 for eight at the close of the fourth day on which Australian captain Allan Border completed another of his rescue acts with an outstanding 125.

Border's 20th test century carried his team to safety when it resumed after Monday's rest day at 309 for six, still needing a further 84 to avoid following on for the second consecutive match in the Ashes series.

Australia escaped only narrowly, losing its ninth wicket with nine more runs wanted before Border and last man Bruce Reid thwarted England.

Border was last out, with Australia's total 401, after a defiant innings of 372 minutes containing 17 fours in which he passed 2,000 runs in tests against England.

Border, who was nursing a

resumed on 81 and continued to receive effective support from wicketkeeper Tim Zoehrer.

Its seventh wicket stand was worth 55 in 57 minutes before Zoehrer was lbw to Graham Dilley for 29.

Geoff Lawson and fellow paceman Chris Matthews helped their captain to edge Australia closer to safety, and appropriately it was Border who finally did the trick by cutting off-spinner John Emburey for four a minute before lunch.

England's quest for quick runs when it started its second innings shortly after lunch was aided by loose bowling. Lawson conceding 44 runs in nine overs and Matthews 15 in his only two overs.

However, Reid and medium-pace Steve Waugh, who shared all eight wickets, gave Australia some respite until Gatting and Gower put on 73 for the fourth wicket.

Reid's three for 58 included Allan Lamb and Ian Botham, who between them totalled eight runs in the match. Waugh captured five for 69 to add to his impressive 71 when he was promoted to number three on the third day.

Pakistan records first win in 4-nation tourney

SHARJAH, United Arab Emirates (R) — Pakistan recovered from middle order jitters to record its first victory in the Four-Nation Champions Trophy cricket Tuesday, beating Sri Lanka by four wickets with one over to spare.

Facing a not too formidable target of 165, Pakistan scraped home in the 44th over after new boy Ejaz Ahmad cracked 12 runs in the crucial 43rd over bowled by Graeme Labrooy.

Sri Lanka was in with a chance when Imran Khan holed out to his counterpart Duleep Mendis at midwicket off Ramesh Ratnayake to make Pakistan 142 for six wickets.

But Ejaz, partnered by the experienced Mudassar Nazar,

played some bold strokes to ease tension in the Pakistani camp.

Pakistan's top scorer was Rameez Raja who grafted 39. Sri Lanka fielded brilliantly and bowled tightly but its total of 164 for seven wickets was always within reach of the Pakistani batsmen.

Only Asanka Gurusinghe coped competently in the Sri Lankan innings against a Pakistan attack that was never hostile on an easy paced track. His 60 anchored the innings to win him the man of the match award after Imran had put the islanders in.

West Indies, who beat India on Sunday, need to beat Sri Lanka in the final match to win the tournament's \$32,000 first prize.

Richest golf tourney planned

LA QUINTA, California (AP) — A \$2-million season-ending event, the richest ever offered in professional golf, and the restructuring of corporate sponsorships on the PGA tour were announced by F. Ross Johnson, president of RJR-Nabisco Brands.

The tournament, with a 30-man field competing for a \$360,000 first prize, the most lucrative in tour history, will be played in October, probably in San Antonio, Texas.

Details of a contract with San Antonio still are under discussion, a PGA tour spokesman said.

At the same time, RJR-Nabisco, parent company of Vantage, announced that Vantage

will shift its sponsorship of golf to the senior's tour in 1987.

Vantage sponsored the \$1-million Vantage Championship in San Antonio this year, as well as the Vantage Cup, a year-long points competition which offered \$2 million in bonus money.

In taking over sponsorship of the regular tour, Nabisco will change the money distribution to \$2 million for its Nabisco Championships of Golf Tournament, and \$1 million to the Nabisco Grand Prix of Golf, another year-long competition in which players gain points for top-25 finishes in regular-season play.

Japan's Hamada retains title on points

TOKYO (R) — Japan's Tsuruyoshi Hamada retained his World Boxing Council (WBC) super-lightweight title Tuesday — but only on a majority points decision over American Ronnie Shields.

It was the first defense by Hamada who had won 19 of his previous 21 fights inside the distance.

Hamada had to work hard for the verdict after suffering a cut over his right eye in the first round.

Judges James Jean Kin of the United States and Larry Nadayag of the Philippines scored the fight for Hamada 111-108 and 116-111. But Malcolm Bulner of Australia gave it to Shields 115-113.

The American thought he had done enough to win. "It was a close fight, but I think I had the edge," he said. "I think I landed more solid blows."

Hamada took the initiative from the start but found it hard to catch the fleet-footed Shields who countered with swift left jabs and straight rights and uppercuts.

Hamada, who took the title from Rene Arredondo of Mexico with a first round knockout in July, said: "I'm disappointed because I was not able to stop him."

After watching the bout American promoter Rogelio Robles said he was now planning for Hamada to meet WBC lightweight champion Hector "Macho" Camacho of Puerto Rico.

Giants clinch playoff berth

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Phil Simms threw two touchdown passes and set up New York's third TD with a 49-yard completion to Stacy Robinson as the Giants came from behind to defeat San Francisco 21-17 and clinch a berth in the National Football League playoffs.

Simms threw for 388 yards, including 202 yards in New York's 21-point third quarter. The win stretched the Giants' winning streak to six games, the team's longest in 16 years.

Simms threw two interceptions in the first half and the Giant running game netted only two yards as the 49ers took a 17-0 halftime lead.

The 49ers had a chance to pull out a victory in the final minutes of the game, but were stopped on downs at New York's 20-yard line.

By improving to 11-2, the Giants remained tied with Washington for the NFC eastern division lead. They will meet the Redskins next Sunday in a first-place showdown.

The 49ers, second in the NFC West, dropped to 7-5-1, 1-1-2 games behind the division-leading Los Angeles Rams.

Chess Olympiad closes with medal presentations

DUBAI (R) — Medal presentations closing the 27th Chess Olympiad Tuesday night confirmed the Soviet Union as the world's top chess nation — but only after a tense three-way race for the title.

In the hottest climax to a Chess Olympiad in recent years, the Soviet and English teams swept aside Poland and Brazil Monday night to take first and second place in the men's event, with the United States — held to a draw by tough and rapidly improving Bulgaria — taking its third bronze in a row.

The Americans, who had led the field of 108 competing teams as they entered the 14th and final round, could only console themselves Tuesday with the strength of their performance.

"In the past two Olympiads our score would have put us a point ahead of the silver medalists — this year it only got us a bronze," said U.S. team captain John Donaldson.

Soviet supremacy in the women's division continued with a champion-packed team clinching the gold with a round to spare.

Hungary safely captured the silver and Romania took the bronze by the slenderest of margins, on tie-break over the rapidly improving Chinese.

Relatively small and

inexperienced countries showed big improvement at this year's Olympiad with notable performances amongst the Asian entries.

China tied for fifth place in the standings, displaying the most depth of Asian teams despite being newcomers to the Olympiad event and its top player, J. Xu, scored his first result towards a grandmaster title. The Chinese women finished above their seeding in a tie for third place.

Indonesia continued to show steady improvement and could become a serious contender in future Olympiads. One of its players, 21-year old Utut Adianto, earned his grandmaster title in Dubai.

Tiny Iceland, strongest nation in the tournament on a per capita population basis, justified its high seeding by finishing in fifth position.

And Spain, perhaps, delivered one of the tournament's big surprises. Despite a late collapse, it topped second seed England by an amazing 3.5-0.5 margin and also soundly defeated fourth ranked Yugoslavia.

Its top player, Jose Luis Fernandez, earned the grandmaster title and its second board, Miguel Illescas, emerged from obscurity to earn his first grandmaster norm.

English authorities probe report of S. African tour

LONDON (AP) — Investigations by government ministers and local team officials were underway Tuesday into a mysterious squad of southern African rugby players calling themselves the Hedgehogs.

One newspaper said the team was actually from South Africa's University of Cape Town, playing a secret-shrouded series of matches against five clubs around southeast England.

Dudley Wood, secretary of the English Rugby Union, denied that report in the Times of London and said that players from Zimbabwe and "a group of British Expatriates" were involved along with South Africans.

"It's not an official tour, just a collection of social players," Wood said.

But one of the English teams, Rosslyn Park, was concerned enough about the reported South African "connection" to cancel Wednesday night's scheduled match against the Hedgehogs.

"We were supposed to field an 'A' side against them but because of the adverse publicity that the Hedgehogs have aroused we thought it not in the interests of Rosslyn Park to link our name with them," David Whittam, the English club's secretary, said.

Richmond, due to host the touring team Saturday, was to meet Tuesday night to decide its next move. And the office of

Sports Minister Richard Tracey also was conducting its own investigation.

Britain and South Africa have political and economic ties. But Britain is a member of the 1977 Gleneagles agreement, which discourages sports and cultural connections with South Africa because of the Pretoria government's apartheid policies.

England's Rugby Football Union has banned tours of South Africa by English clubs and individual players.

The Hedgehogs opened their visit last Saturday with a 17-10 victory over Beckenham. Their tour is scheduled to include matches against Southend, Richmond and Esher before ending Dec. 10.

Whittam said the Rosslyn Park executive committee was unanimous in deciding to call off Wednesday's match. But the club's coach, David Barclay, was upset by the move.

"I really don't know what all the fuss is about," he told Press Association, Britain's domestic news agency.

Barclay said the South African Rugby Board was against the tour and that the players "are not even that interested in playing rugby. They are over here staying with friends and relatives and doing a lot of sightseeing."

Becker hints that he should be no. 1

ATLANTA (AP) — West Germany's Boris Becker, coming off four consecutive tennis tournament victories, including the \$500,000 AT and T Challenge this past weekend, thinks he should be ranked no. 1 in the world.

Meanwhile, John McEnroe, a former No. 1 who lost to the second-ranked Becker 3-6, 6-3, 6-2 in the final Sunday, said he believed top-ranked Ivan Lendl of Czechoslovakia belongs there. But McEnroe said he should be rated just behind those two, not at his current ranking of 12th.

Asked if he should be ranked no. 1 following his victory over McEnroe Sunday that earned him \$150,000, Becker said: "I know what I think. I would say it is my secret."

Becker, who also is seeded second to Lendl in the Masters Tournament starting Wednesday

in New York that pits the top eight players in the world against each other, has beaten Lendl in three of their last four matches as well as winning four straight tourneys.

Becker has won seven tournaments this year, six on the Grand Prix tour. Lendl has won eight times, including the French Open and U.S. Open.

"Now I have the chance (to get no. 1). I think it would be stupid to say I am no. 2," said Becker. "You don't always have the chance, you know?"

Becker, who just turned 19, also has won the last two Wimbledon titles. But McEnroe, who was No. 1 until Lendl unseated him last year, still favors the Czech as the top player in game right now.

"My personal opinion is that Lendl is number 1, based on what I know you have to go through to be number one," McEnroe said.

"Becker hasn't had to go

through that pressure yet. Lendl did what he had to do in order to be no. 1. I think it should be more of a 12-month thing, but some people just pick the majors."

McEnroe, who did not qualify for the Masters having taken a self-imposed seven-month hiatus from the game, also believes he should not have been penalized in the rankings for taking time off.

"I'm right behind Lendl and Becker now," said McEnroe, who defeated Lendl in the semifinals here and earned \$100,000 in Sunday's final.

"That's where I am with the way I'm playing now," said McEnroe, who will not play again competitively until the Australian Open Jan. 12. "I almost beat Becker and beat Lendl. There is a problem with your system of rankings. Just because I took time off shouldn't drop me in the rankings."

"I'm still the best. It's kind of unfair," he said.

When McEnroe returned to the tour in August he was ranked seventh, but his playoff showed and he fell to 21st before winning three tournaments and moving as high as 10th.

Asked what obstacles were ahead for his bid to regain the No. 1 spot, McEnroe replied: "Becker and Lendl."

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Performances 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

Cinema Tel: 677420
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(Arabic)
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LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Tuesday.

One sterling	1.4292/4302	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.3817/22	Canadian dollars
	2.9735/45	West German marks
	2.2300/10	Dutch guilders
	1.6450/60	Swiss francs
	40.99/41.04	Belgian francs
	6.4525/75	French francs
	1367/1368	Italian lire
	162.30/40	Japanese yen
	6.8740/8790	Swedish crowns
	7.4510/60	Norwegian crowns
	7.4530/80	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	391.50/392.00	U.S. dollars

LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON (R) — Equities closed firmer after Monday's self-off, when prices were hit by a surprise announcement that the Department of Trade was inquiring into the affairs of Guinness plc.

The market was helped earlier by a late recovery on Wall Street on Monday and the better than expected \$35 million underlying rise in Britain's gold and currency reserves in November after a \$668 million fall in October.

Wall Street moved to record levels in early trading on Tuesday, pushing the London market still higher and at 1530 GMT the FTSE 100 was up 14.3 at 1,632.1.

Dealers said the market was unsettled late in the day when news broke that a summons had been served on ex-Morgan Grenfell Securities Director Geoffrey Collier, alleging offences connected with dealing in the shares of AE plc.

Merchant bank Morgan Grenfell, which is banking adviser to Guinness, was a penny lower at 367. AE plc which is subject to bids by both Hollis and Turner and Newall was steady at 286.

YOUR DAILY
Horoscope
from the Carroll Righter Institute

FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY, DEC. 3, 1986

GENERAL TENDENCIES: You have an excellent day to put into motion the practical phases of whatever policy decisions you've been working on. Your instincts are fine now.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Get out to the business world early and enhance your standing there. Walk and drive with care.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Be alert to new ideas that can help you to get all of your affairs on a more secure structure.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Find better methods for handling business matters. Avoid one who is trying to come between you and your mate.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) Plan how to come to a better agreement with outside associates and then carry through wisely.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Whittle those huge plans down to a practical level. Come right to the point with a co-worker and save time.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) You know how to plan your recreations better so that you will not meet with stumbling blocks later.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) If you want to have a discussion with a friend, invite this person into your home and do it there.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Don't permit gossip to take up your valuable time. Carry through with your duties methodically.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Look into a better method for gaining a greater abundance. Avoid one who can be troublesome.

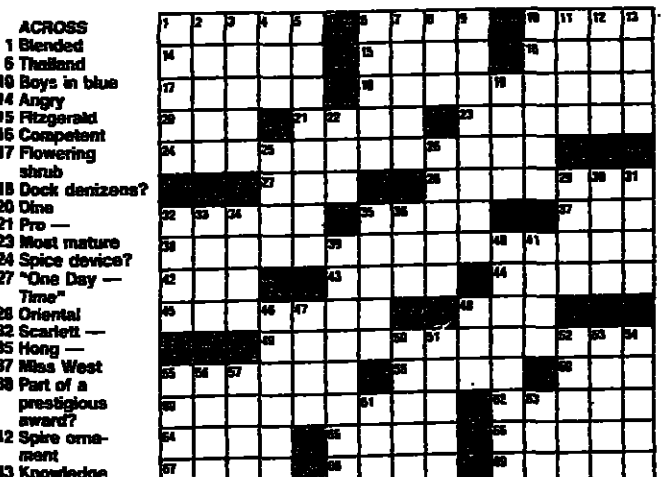
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) You like to have everything in its rightful place and this is a good day to get things there.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Be with those who comprehend your ideas and get much accomplished with aid from them.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Stop all that wishful thinking and get right to work on whatever is important to your well being.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY... he or she will be one of those charming young persons who from earliest time will want to be in control of situations. Teach this one that it is better to have more challenge for greater learning. The field of business would be best for your clever progeny.

THE Daily Crossword by Gayle Dean



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Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

1 Across: 8 Blended
10 Boys in blue
14 Angry
15 Ritzier
16 Competent
17 Flowering
18 Duck denizens?
20 One
21 Pro—
22 Most mature
24 Spice device?
27 "One Day"
28 "Time"
29 Oriental
30 Scarlett—
31 Hong—
32 Miss West
36 Part of a prestigious award?
42 Spine ornament
43 Knowledge handed down
44 Valued
45 Naps
46 Fine
48 Drunken rhythm?
55 Large fleet
58 "Mash" star
59 Army women
60 Play's appendage?
62 Point the finger at
64 Pinnacle
65 Sea bird
66 Saphire
67 Hollow stem
68 Br. gum
69 Use energy

DOWN
1 — mignon
2 Balthazar's husband
3 Briny
4 Timbale
5 letters
6 Paid reply of a kind
8 Partitions
7 Sacro—

8 Fermented drink
9 Blasted merger
10 Floor cover
11 Houtboy
12 Extra
13 Mo
14 Cotton device
22 Dra. gp.
23 Horse
24 Therefore
25 Radiate
30 Demolish
31 Desideratum
32 Singles
33 Pueblo Indian
34 Nicholas' hero
35 Nervous
36 Above to poets
37 Appassee
40 Likely
41 Perfidious one
46 Perfidious
47 Heat
48 Part two and two together
50 Singer Frankie
51 Terry or Buratyn
52 Cognizant
53 Crown member
54 Aroma
55 At a distance
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57 Maracas for one
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West restricts growth in Third World, Mexican leader charges

TOKYO (R) — Selfish policies by industrial countries and social disarray in developing nations have prevented solutions to world economic problems, Mexican President Miguel De La Madrid said Tuesday.

"During the past few years, various initiatives by the developing world towards relaunching a dialogue with industrialised countries have been repeatedly rejected," president De-La Madrid said in a lecture to the United Nations University in Tokyo.

President De La Madrid arrived in Tokyo on Sunday for a five-day

state visit to Japan, Mexico's largest trading partner after the United States.

Industrialised countries which are members of the three institutions which form the base of the world economic structure — the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank — vote for policies which restrict the growth of the developing world, the Mexican leader said.

Such nations protect their old industries against imports, yet aggressively promote their new industries. They subsidise their

agriculture yet develop synthetic substitutes which block out the natural products on which many developing economies rely, he said.

These moves, coupled with restrictive monetary and investment policies, only deepen the feeling of resentment and frustration in the developing world, he said.

An open discussion of the world debt problem, firm action under GATT to eliminate all protectionism, and freer financial flows to the developing world hold out some hope, President De La Madrid added.

7 firms bid to explore oil in India

NEW DELHI (R) — Seven international oil companies have made bids to explore off India's coast on a production sharing basis, petroleum ministry officials said Tuesday.

The seven companies are Albion International Resources, Chevron Corp and Texaco INC who bid jointly, Amoco Production Company, all of the United States, Shell Exploration B.V. and Britoil, Consolidated International Petroleum Corporation from Dubai and Broken Hill proprietary of Australia.

"Negotiations will be held individually with each company before the offshore contracts are signed sometime early next year," one official told Reuters.

The bids stipulate drilling some of the 27 offshore blocks,

measuring between 3,000 square kilometres and 22,000 square kilometres each, on the east and west coasts.

The blocks were opened to foreign companies for drilling early this year.

India, constrained by inadequate offshore oil expertise and resources, has turned to foreign companies to help boost domestic oil production, which has stagnated at around 30 million tons a year for the past three years.

India's annual oil imports total 15 million tons for around \$3.2 billion.

Last week, Soviet and Indian ministers signed an agreement to help search for oil and gas in the eastern state of West Bengal.

India's previous invitations to foreign companies to explore oil received a poor response because

most firms considered the contracts harsh and unattractive, oil industry sources said.

Those contracts required a foreign company to invest a specified amount of money and also to drill a certain number of wells even when chances of finding oil appeared bleak.

India has made the latest contract terms more attractive to tempt foreign participation, the officials said.

Several new fiscal concessions would be allowed, including a 20 per cent minimum return on investment.

The companies would not be required as earlier to pay oil royalty to India and would have no obligation to spend a specified amount on exploration, officials said.

U.N. panel fails to solve financial bind

UNITED NATIONS (R) — The United Nations could be forced to reduce operations, if not cease functioning, unless members agree on new budgetary procedures, the chairman of a core group dealing with the problem has said.

Yusuf Hitam, the chief delegate of Malaysia, told a committee of the whole that there was a critical situation following the failure of his 37-member panel to come up with solutions for the U.N. financial crisis.

Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar reported last Friday that for months the United Nations has been on the brink of bankruptcy and will enter 1987 with only \$10 million in hand, substantially less than one week's needs.

He said it had been barely able to meet the payroll.

Mr. Yusuf's panel was set up after a group of 18 experts under the direction of Norwegian Ambassador Tom Vraalsen produced a number of recommendations that were not generally acceptable.

Mr. Yusuf said proposals that financial decisions be made by a consensus of the 159 member states ran into opposition because some felt that withholding assent represented a veto.

"We failed to reach one another," he said.

Shipping council offers to widen Gulf war zone

LONDON (R) — The General Council of British Shipping (GCBS) Monday night offered to extend the Middle East Gulf war zone, but not by as much as the seafaring unions had requested.

By agreement with the National Maritime Board, merchant ships entering the Gulf war zone are obliged to offer crews the option of being paid off and repatriated home, or double pay for working within the zone.

The National Union of Seamen (NUS) and the merchant navy officers' union Numast requested an extension of the zone because of recent attacks on ships outside it. They wanted its limits stretched to include Khor Fakkan and Fujairah in the United Arab Emirates outside the Gulf.

The GCBS has asked that the "double pay" allowance be suspended for the period that vessels are in dry dock at Dubai, which would assist some companies to dry dock there rather than elsewhere outside the zone.

An NUS spokesman said that there have been no attacks in Dubai and did not regard this as a problem.

Taiwan doubles foreign exchange reserves to \$43b

TAIPEI (R) — Taiwan's foreign exchange reserves have more than doubled in the past year but there are fears that export earnings could be threatened by a protectionist backlash in Washington.

The central bank said Monday reserves hit \$43 billion at the end of November compared with \$21 billion at the same time last year.

Booming exports to the U.S. have given Taiwan a huge supply of hard cash, which in per capita terms is matched only by a few oil-rich Gulf states, but which economists warn will make the island a target for U.S. protectionism.

The trade surplus with the U.S., Taiwan's largest trading partner, is expected to rise to \$15 billion this year against about \$10 billion last year, according to the ministry of economics.

Washington is worried that its overall trade deficit could derail its economy and there are fears in Taiwan that a Democrat-controlled Congress could press for protectionist legislation to try and cut it.

Anti-inflation strike unites all Lebanese

BEIRUT (AP) — All Lebanese banded together in a rare display of unity Tuesday to paralyse Lebanon with a one-day nationwide strike to protest soaring inflation after 11½ years of civil war.

Schools, shops, banks, newspapers, sidewalk cafes, restaurants and other businesses closed in east and west Beirut.

The city's international airport also was shut down. All flights were rescheduled for Wednesday, airport officials reported.

Police said the strike was observed in most of Lebanon. But they could not tell whether the population of Israel's self-proclaimed "buffer zone" in South Lebanon joined the shutdown.

The stoppage was called by the General Confederation of Labour Unions to "warn the authorities that speedy action is imperative to stop the soaring cost of living that raises the spectre of famine."

A statement issued by the confederation, which represents 150,000 members of Lebanon's work force, threatened to call an open-ended strike if the government did not move to curb the worsening economic and financial crisis.

The leaderships of the main Falangist and opposition militias engaged in the civil war have declared support for the strike. They all warned in separate statements against what they called the "war of starvation."

Runaway inflation is now estimated at an annual rate of 106 per cent. The Lebanese pound, once the Middle East's most stable currency, has lost 97 per cent of its value, mainly in the last three years.

When the civil war broke out in April, 1975, the pound was 2.25 to the dollar. The exchange rate is now close to 70.

This has caused catapulting the prices of all commodities, triggering acute food and fuel shortages and threatening economic collapse.

Falangist and opposition members of President Amin Gemayel's administration have blamed on each other for the beleaguered government's inability to deal with the crisis.

African food crisis eases

ROME (R) — Famine has eased considerably in most of Africa, but population growth is outstripping food production increases and new emergencies could arise, according to the U.N.'s Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO).

FAO said by the beginning of this year only six African countries — Angola, Botswana, Cape Verde, Ethiopia, Mozambique and the Sudan — needed exceptional levels of food aid, compared with 21 in January 1975. The problems of civil war in Angola and Mozambique were largely to blame for shortages there.

FAO said ample rains in early 1985 and the rapid response of the world community to appeals for aid so that the year's crops could be planted and tended.

OPEC ministers meet today to plan own strategy

KUWAIT (R) — Oil ministers of Saudi Arabia, other Gulf countries and Arab states hit by the oil market crash meet in Kuwait on Wednesday as OPEC battles to make headway in its bid to boost world prices.

More than a month after Saudi Arabia called on OPEC to aim for \$18 a barrel as a minimum target, prices in the glutted market still languish around \$14 to \$15.

This is only half the level of a year ago and barely changed from the prices ruling when the Saudi kingdom, the world's biggest oil exporter, issued its call at the end of October.

The ministers of the 10-nation Organisation of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OAPEC) are meeting for biannual talks to ratify, among other things, the group's 1987 budget.

Oil industry sources expect Gulf and perhaps other members of the 13-nation Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) to hold strategy talks on the sidelines, ahead of a crucial OPEC ministerial meeting in Geneva a week later.

"OPEC credibility is again at stake. The Saudi-sponsored price goal remains elusive and some strong action is vital to show they mean business," said one Gulf-based oil analyst.

An OAPEC official said all the group's leading oil ministers, including Saudi Arabia's Hisham Nazer who replaced veteran

Ahmad Zaki Yamani, would attend the scheduled one-day talks.

OAPEC includes OPEC members Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar and Iraq, along with Libya and Algeria who with Iran are viewed as hardline price hawks in OPEC.

Industry sources say OPEC ministers face an uphill task in Geneva, where they have set their sights on restoring a fixed, official price system and renewing negotiations to revise production quotas and settle on a permanent share-out.

Their job is likely to be aggravated by signs that a temporary compromise accord on output limits hammered out at record 17-day talks in October is unravelling.

The respected Nicosia-Based Middle East Economic Review (MEER) reported this week that OPEC was now pumping 17.5 million barrels a day (bpd) of crude, half a million above a ceiling agreed for November and December.

"The key to controlling prices is controlling output, but it seems discipline is wavering again," said one oil trader.

EC agrees on tougher rules against forgeries

BRUSSELS, Belgium (AP) — European Community trade (EC) ministers agreed Monday on tougher rules against counterfeit goods and a series of other measures to remove trade barriers between member countries.

The agreements marked an acceleration of the EC's drive to eliminate all remaining national trade barriers by 1992.

The counterfeit legislation empowered national customs authorities to seize and destroy counterfeit goods imported from non-EC countries at the point where they first enter the EC's boundaries.

It allows, for example, a trademark owner from one EC nation to request the customs officials of another member country to check a shipment of goods that the owner suspects of being counterfeit.

The European Parliament has estimated that world trade in counterfeit goods was more than \$60 billion last year and that it resulted in the loss to the 12 EC nations of about 100,000 jobs.

Among the other trade measures approved by the EC ministers was a requirement that the member states enact national laws protecting the semiconductor integrated circuit chips against unauthorised copying.

This measure was proposed in

response to a U.S. law that provides copyright protection to foreign chipmakers, but only if the country of origin also protects U.S. chip manufacturers in its market.

The trade ministers also approved the following measures: Common standards on laboratory testing of chemical substances, common hotel fire safety rules and easing of border controls for tractor trailers.

British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, who will be chairman of the London summit, made the creation of a free internal European market one of the top priorities of Britain's six-month EC presidency, which ends Dec. 31.

Britain has pushed hard in recent days for agreements on a wide range of proposals in order to avoid falling further behind in the EC's official schedule of removing all barriers to free trade by 1992.

In the past week, British Trade Minister Alan Clark has visited Bonn, Rome, Copenhagen, Athens and Madrid in a bid to persuade member countries to drop national objections to various proposals.

Also, Mrs. Thatcher recently sent letters to the other EC heads of government, urging more rapid progress before the London summit.

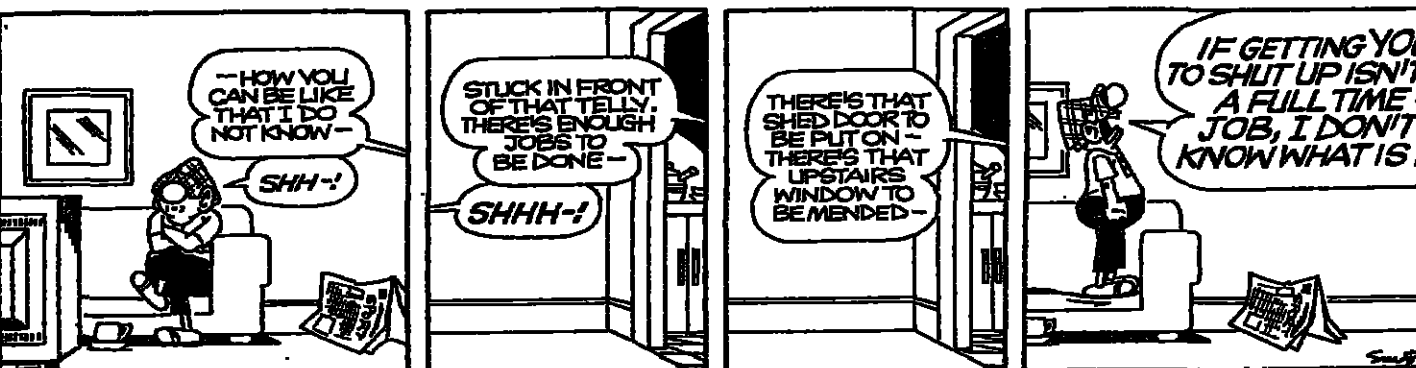
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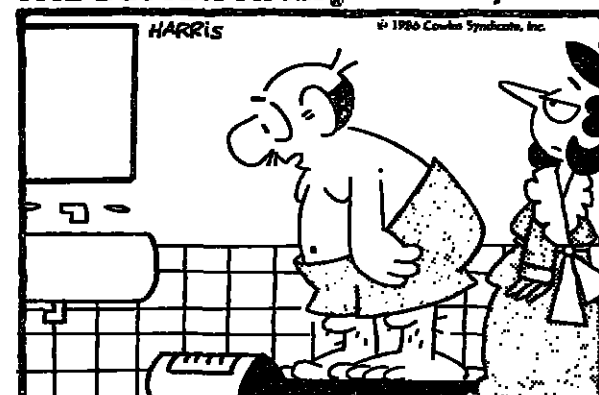
Mutt 'n' Jeff



Andy Capp

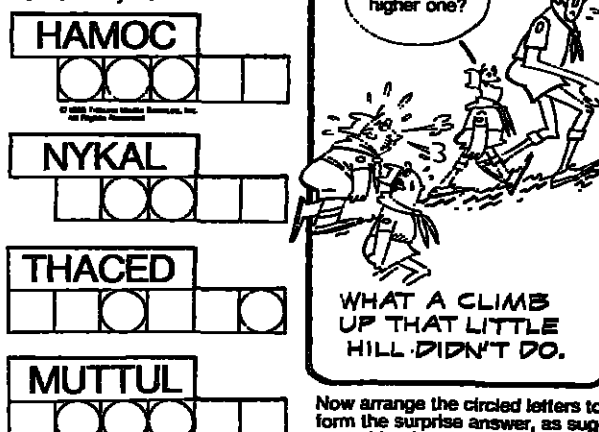


THE BETTER HALF. By Harris



JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer: "HILL" to "HILL" (Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: GLAND AWASH BANTER GUITAR

Answer: How the winner was chosen at that big art contest—BY A DRAWING

Aquino accepts 2 more cabinet resignations

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — President Aquino accepted the resignations of two more cabinet officials Tuesday and will announce their replacements on Wednesday, a spokesman said.

Spokesman Teodoro Benigno refused to say which ministers had resigned, but speculation centered on Labour Minister Augusto Sanchez and Local Governments Minister Aquilino Pimentel.

Both ministers were among five cabinet officials that military commanders wanted replaced.

Two others, former Natural Resources Minister Ernesto Maceda and former Public Works Minister Rogacion Mercado, were replaced last week.

The government radio station quoted unidentified sources as saying Mr. Pimentel had been replaced by prominent businessman Jaime Ferrer. Both are members of the PDP-Laban Party, one of Mrs. Aquino's strongest supporters.

Mr. Benigno said Mr. Ferrer had been summoned to "an important meeting" with Mrs. Aquino, but refused to give further details.

Mrs. Aquino asked all 25 cabinet ministers to submit their resignations on Nov. 23 to head of a reported coup attempt.

Government officials said Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Fidel

Ramos had blocked a planned military coup by officers linked to Defence Minister Juan Ponce Enrile.

Mrs. Aquino immediately accepted Mr. Enrile's resignation. Mr. Enrile, the only cabinet member who had been in the administration of deposed President Ferdinand Marcos, was replaced by his deputy, Rafael Iloilo, a former deputy chief of staff.

Mr. Benigno said the cabinet changes had been delayed because of problems in finding qualified replacements.

Mr. Pimentel, a longtime associate of Mrs. Aquino's late husband, Benigno Aquino, had been under fire for his handling of appointments to local posts vacated after the new government fired thousands of Marcos holdovers.

Mr. Sanchez, a former human rights lawyer, had been criticised by business and military leaders for his support of worker rights and his ties to leftist organisations.

Meanwhile the Philippine military is being reorganised following last week's actions by President Corazon Aquino to

head off a reported coup against her, a U.S. Defence Department official told Congress on Monday.

Mrs. Aquino has moved quickly to order changes in the military structure after the fired Defence Minister Juan Ponce Enrile and demanded the resignation of her entire 25-member cabinet.

The new defence minister, Gen. Iloilo, "will probably shear off the rather large security element" built by Mr. Enrile and which was the centre of the alleged plot, said Karl Jackson, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defence of East Asia and the Pacific.

Mr. Jackson and Gaston Sigur, assistant secretary of state for East Asia and the Pacific, praised Mrs. Aquino's action in moving against the alleged plotters.

But Mr. Sigur refused to tell a House of Representatives Subcommittee whether he thought there actually was a coup plot.

"Was there a planned coup or were the reports fiction?" asked Democratic Representative Stephen Solarz.

"Certainly there were people in the Philippines who felt changes should be made," said Mr. Sigur, but he declined to publicly reveal what information the U.S. government has about the extent of the alleged plot.

90 Seoul opposition lawmakers threaten to quit

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — All but two of 90 opposition members of South Korea's National Assembly threatened to resign Tuesday after the ruling party pushed through a budget bill.

The action on the budget bill came in the early morning after hours of shouted exchanges in the assembly by members of the opposition and ruling camps.

When the regular proceedings were repeatedly disrupted, members of the government party gathered in a rest area behind locked doors and passed the budget measure by unanimous, shouted approval in one and a half minutes.

It was the second consecutive year that the ruling party had passed a budget without opposition assembly members present.

"We have tried to defend the parliament, but there is nothing left to defend," one opposition member shouted during an emergency meeting of New Korea Democratic Party (NKDP) lawmakers.

Sixty-seven assembly members attended the meeting and signed letters of resignation, party officials said.

Twenty-one others later submitted resignation letters to be given to Lee Min-woo, the party president. Of the remaining two, one was reported to be travelling and the other was in jail.

To become effective, the resignations would have to be approved by the single-house assembly or by the assembly speaker if the chamber is not in session.

After the lawmakers took their action, Mr. Lee met for more than an hour with Kim Young-Sam and Kim Dae-Jung, Korea's two best-known dissident leaders and supporters of the opposition party.

The three issued a statement saying the decision of the assembly members demonstrated their willingness to "sacrifice everything." But the statement also said the letters of resignation would be handled prudently while efforts went on to seek constitutional revisions.

The opposition party spokesman, Hong Sa-Duk, declared the budget passage was an act "destroying a democratic republic system which cannot be tolerated by the people." Choi Yung-An, spokesman for the junior Korea National Party, called it a "reckless act in outright denial of parliamentarianism."

Papers show Nixon met with Elvis

WASHINGTON (AP) — Former President Richard Nixon met with Elvis Presley in 1970 after the late rock star asked to be named "a federal agent at large" to fight drug abuse and other problems.

According to newly released documents from the Nixon presidency, the former chief executive told Presley the singer could help the nation, because he "could reach young people."

A presidential aide's account of the meeting said Presley responded that he could "go right into a group of young people or hippies and be accepted, which he felt could be helpful" in Mr. Nixon's anti-drug effort.

The accounts of the meeting were among 1.5 million documents from the Nixon presidency made available by the National Archives.

Missing from the newly released documents are the most sensitive of the Nixon files — those relating to the Watergate scandal that drove him from office. The National Archives once before tried to release those but was stopped by 29 lawsuits filed by former Nixon associates.

The documents also showed Mr. Nixon was advised by an aide in 1969 to avoid visiting the widow of U.S. black civil rights leader Martin Luther King on the first anniversary of Rev. King's assassination because it would hurt national unity.

Such a visit "would outrage many, many people," said the aide, Patrick Buchanan, a speechwriter for Mr. Nixon who is now director of communications for President Ronald Reagan.

Mr. Buchanan's memo, written on April 1, 1969, said Mr. Nixon should observe the first anniversary of Rev. King's death by doing no more than issuing a statement.

Meanwhile, Presley's request to be a federal agent was known previously, but this is the first time actual documents on the incident became available.

Presley asked Mr. Nixon at the meeting for a Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs badge. An arrangement was worked out for the singer to receive a specially prepared badge with his name on it.

The day of the meeting, in a memorandum for the presidential files, a White House aide wrote that Presley criticised the Beatles as "a real force for anti-American spirit."

"He said that the Beatles came to this country, made their money, and then returned to England where they promoted an anti-American theme," the memo said. "The president nodded in agreement and expressed some surprise."

At the conclusion of the meeting, Presley told the president "how much he supported him, and then, in a surprising spontaneous gesture, put his left arm around the president and hugged him," according to the aide's account.

The star expressed his concern for the nation's problems, including illegal drugs, asked to be appointed "a federal agent at large."

"I will help best by doing it in my way through my communications with peoples of all ages. First and foremost I am an entertainer, but all I need is the federal credentials," Presley wrote.

Poll shows Americans do not believe Reagan on Iran arms deal

NEW YORK (AP) — A majority of Americans do not believe President Ronald Reagan's denials about a key fact of the U.S. arms deals with Iran, a CBS News-New York Times poll has said.

More than half the public questioned in the poll Sunday said they believed Mr. Reagan knew that money from the arms sales was going to fund the contras in Nicaragua, despite Mr. Reagan's statements that he had not been informed.

Two-thirds of those questioned said the Reagan government is engaged in a cover-up. The issue has driven Reagan's overall job rating down to the lowest point since 1983 and propelled the U.S. public's negative judgment of his foreign policy work to the highest point of his presidency.

A total of 687 adults were interviewed by telephone nationwide on Sunday, after the revelations at the White House on Nov. 25 that arms sales to Iran had been the source for up to \$30 million for the contra rebels. The poll had an error margin of about 4 per cent.

The respondents were asked, "Is this situation as serious for the country as Watergate was?"

Forty-seven per cent agreed that the scandal was as serious as Watergate and 10 per cent volunteered that the current situation was more serious than Watergate. Thirty-six per cent said the scandal was not that serious and 7 per cent were not sure or did not give an answer.

About half those questioned said they do not believe Mr. Reagan's denial of knowledge that the profits from the arms deal were going to help the contras in Nicaragua.

Fifty-three per cent said they believe Mr. Reagan knew of the funnelling of money to the contras, while 26 per cent said he did not. The remainder were undecided.

In a finding that recalled a major feature of the Watergate scandal, more than two-thirds of those questioned said the government is hiding the full facts of case from the public. Sixty-nine per cent said the Reagan government is attempting a cover-up, while 20 per cent disagreed.

Mr. Reagan's overall rating is down 21 percentage points from a poll taken in late October. His job rating in the current poll stood at 46 per cent approve and 45 per cent disapprove. That is down from a 67-25 approval mark in the last pre-election poll by CBS and the Times.

Likewise, Americans' rating of Mr. Reagan's foreign policy work is down, dropping 22 percentage points. The latest poll said only 35 per cent approve of Mr. Reagan's work in international affairs, while 54 per cent disapprove. That is the highest disapproval figure for this rating in the Reagan presidency.

The foreign policy rating cited in the previous poll was 57 per cent approve, 31 per cent disapproval.

Despite the questions about the Reagan's answers on the contra money issue, the poll said Americans' judgment of Mr. Reagan's honesty remains high. By a 59-33 edge, the respondents said Mr. Reagan has more honesty and integrity than most people in public life, figures essentially unchanged from 1984.

PTI said police had been put on alert in at least five states across most of north India.

In a crackdown against political support for extremists, Punjab police arrested two prominent hardline Sikh leaders opposed to the moderate Sikh Chief Minister of Punjab, Surjit Singh Barnala.

Prakash Singh Badal, a former chief minister, and Gurcharan Singh Tohra were picked up early this morning under the tough national security act, police said.

The state government said Monday night it planned to tighten anti-terrorist laws, set up special police squads and confiscate the property of convicted extremists and their helpers.

The deaths brought the toll in Punjab so far this year to 641.

Bus services between Punjab and neighbouring states were halted because of the tense situation, the Press Trust of India (PTI) news agency said.

Protests and strikes were reported in most of north west India. The industrial city of

launch of the unmanned booster in 1987, and the first manned launch in 1988, about the time the American shuttle returns to flight after the Challenger explosion in January that killed seven crew members.

The publication also said the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) is considering a new manned launch vehicle, designated Shuttle II, the could become operational before the present shuttle fleet is retired.

Shuttle II, launched by a single-stage rocket, would be

smaller than the present shuttle. It would be used primarily for carrying people into space, mainly to and from the space station NASA plans to assemble in orbit starting about 1993.

By the mid-1990s, most U.S. heavy cargo destined for space will be lifted by unmanned rockets.

The magazine said the cost of a single flight could be reduced from the current \$100 million to between \$20 million and \$30 million.

Shuttle II, if approved, could be flying by early in the next century, the magazine said.

LAUNCH OF THE UNMANNED BOOSTER

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